



# Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road  
Groton, CT 06340-4394  
Town Clerk 860-441-6640  
Town Manager  
860-441-6630

## Meeting Minutes

### Representative Town Meeting

**Moderator Jean-Claude Ambroise, Representatives Karin Adams, Scott W. Aument, Sr., Joseph Baril, Nancy E. Barnhart, Alicia Bauer, Genevieve Cerf, Susan Chase-Hildebrand, Michael Collins, Christine Conley, Susan Deane-Shinbrot, Luanne E. DeMatto, Nancy Driscoll, Dave Ferreira, Neal Gardner, Patrice Granatosky, Dolores Harrell, Karen Hatcher, Keith L. Hedrick, Jonathan Heller, Lynn Crockett Hubbard, Michael Dean Johnson, Rosanne E. Kotowski, Jim Loughlin, Elizabeth Luck, Jackie Massett, Bruce A. McDermott, Roscoe Merritt, Constance Miller, Scott Newsome, Richard J. Pasqualini, Jr., Betty A. Prochaska, Pam Ryley, Jack Sebastian, Dana S. Semeraro, Joan Steinfeld, Irma Streeter, Mark Svencer, Archie C. Swindell, Lori A. Watrous and Ivy R. Williams**

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**Monday, April 30, 2012**

**7:00 PM**

**Groton Senior Center**

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#### **ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING**

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#### **A. ROLL CALL**

*Moderator Jean-Claude Ambroise called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Thirty-three members were present, and a quorum was declared. (Reps. Collins and Johnson arrived later in the meeting.)*

*The Moderator reported that Reps. Barnhart, Ferreira, Miller, Streeter and Watrous notified the Town Clerk of their absence and Reps. Collins and Johnson will be arriving later.*

Members Present: Moderator Ambroise, Rep. Adams, Rep. Aument, Rep. Baril, Rep. Cerf, Rep. Chase-Hildebrand, Rep. Collins, Rep. Conley, Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Driscoll, Rep. Gardner, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Hatcher, Rep. Hedrick, Rep. Heller, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Johnson, Rep. Kotowski, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Luck, Rep. Massett, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Prochaska, Rep. Ryley, Rep. Semeraro, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Svencer, Rep. Swindell and Rep. Williams

Members Absent: Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Ferreira, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Miller, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Streeter and Rep. Watrous

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Superintendent of Schools Paul Kadri, Finance Director Sal Pandolfo, Administrative Services Director Doug Ackerman, Mayor Heather Somers, Town Councilors Bruce Flax, Bill Johnson and Deborah Peruzzotti, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Assistant Town Clerk Sally Whitney.*

#### **B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

*The members observed a moment of silence followed by the Salute to the Flag led by Town Councilor Bill Johnson.*

#### **C. CALL OF THE MEETING**

*Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher read the Call of the Meeting.*

**2012-0080**

#### **Annual RTM Budget Meeting**

#### **RESOLUTION SETTING RTM BUDGET MEETING DATE ON THE 2012-2013 ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET**

WHEREAS, Section 9.3.1 of the Groton Town Charter requires that the Town Council determine the date for the annual budget meeting of the Representative Town Meeting, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Annual Budget Meeting of the Representative Town Meeting will be held on Monday April 30, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the Groton Senior Center, Newtown Road, Groton, Connecticut.

#### **D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS**

*Sue Sutherland, 32 Neptune Drive, expressed her support for funding the Trail Improvement Program which will benefit the community in multiple ways.*

*Alan Nordquist, 42 Somerset Drive, Mystic, asked the RTM to approve the funding for the Aquatics Center study as recommended in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. He noted that this item was widely endorsed by residents who participated in the Town survey.*

*Margil Steinfeld, 32 Valley Road, asked the RTM not to reduce the Town Operations budget. He mentioned many changes in services over the last several decades. He feels that the services provided in Groton make it a great place to live. He noted that certain map revisions have not been completed since 2005 due to reductions in Town staff.*

*Lewis Foster, 75 Library Street, Mystic, thanked members for reinstating funding last year that enabled the Mystic & Noank Library to reopen on Thursdays and to expand several programs. He asked the RTM to continue its support by approving this year's request for funding.*

*Ann Shipley, 48 Riverview Avenue, Noank, agreed with Mr. Foster's comments and asked the RTM to approve this year's funding request. She explained that Groton's three libraries serve different constituents, allow many residents to access a library within walking distance, and provide community groups with public meeting spaces.*

*Mike Hewitt, 10 Riverview Avenue, Noank, asked for continued support of the Mystic & Noank Library. He reiterated the comments made by previous speakers.*

*Joan Smith, 38 Mohegan Road, Noank, president of Groton Open Space Association, requested support for the purchase of the Spicer property along Thomas Road. She noted the attributes of the property and the importance of preserving one of the last open space properties in our community.*

*Barry Boodman, 215 Library Street, Mystic, a trustee of the Mystic & Noank Library, encouraged the RTM to continue to fund the library. He agreed with the comments of previous speakers.*

*Kevin Trejo, 536 Shennecossett Road, asked the RTM to support funding for Phase II School Design. He stated that he opposed the Phase II plan that went to referendum, but feels that Groton needs to proceed to fix the schools and create a master plan to maintain the educational system and move forward. He also endorses the Town Council action to add an Assistant Town Manager position. He feels that the Town needs to have someone who can step in when Town Manager retires.*

*Beth Tillman, 925 River Road, asked the RTM to fund the request from the Eastern Connecticut Symphony. She noted the benefits that the Town and the surrounding community receives through its support of cultural organizations. She added that one-third of the symphony subscribers are Groton residents.*

*Matthew Shafner, 90 Jupiter Point Road, urged members to support funding for the Bill Memorial Library and Eastern Connecticut Symphony. He feels that these organizations are valuable assets to the Groton community.*

*Rep. Sebastian expressed outrage over the four million dollar increase in the Town budget. He feels that the Town cannot rely on the tax revenue received from Pfizer and Electric Boat as it has in the past, noting that there have been many changes at both facilities.*

## **E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS**

*Moderator Ambrose reported that he received an email from R. A. Voyer, 112 Russell Street,*

*requesting that the RTM approve a budget that will not increase taxes. He added that he attended a Board of Education meeting on the redistricting plan.*

*The Moderator announced that the Town Council referred Fourth Quarter Transfers to the RTM on April 24 and that he has referred it to the RTM Finance Committee with a due date of June 13, 2012.*

*The Moderator advised the members of a schedule change involving Accounts 1003-Voter Registration and 1005-Town Clerk. He noted that they are being moved from Monday, May 7 to Wednesday, May 2 immediately after Account 1024-Public Safety.*

#### **F. BUDGET UPDATE/DISCUSSION**

*In response to Rep. Cerf, the Town Manager reviewed the CIP accounts and their impact on this year's budget. He explained the Capital Reserve Fund and Sewer District Fund. He noted that debt service has declined due to bond refunding last fall and the fact that no projects have been completed which would increase debt service. He cited the reasons to replenish the Capital Reserve Fund this year. He mentioned that revenues are not decreasing significantly, but that interest income is still lagging when compared to several years ago.*

*Rep. Collins arrived at this time.*

#### **TOWN OPERATIONS**

*Rep. Hatcher addressed the members in regard to initiating a discussion regarding the current budgetary process and how best to move forward to create a realistic, sustainable budget. She stated that she does not see the value in a line by line review of departmental budgets which provides a limited opportunity for considering long-term funding objectives. Committees may concentrate on certain "value areas" such as programs, projects, activities and initiatives that are important only to several districts and not to the Town as a whole. She feels that the RTM is not required by the Town Charter to review the budget line by line. She suggested that the RTM could consider the budget in broader categories such as: Town Operations, Education, Capital/Debt Service, Outside Agencies, Subdivisions and CIP. She believes this approach would provide improved concentration on critical budget areas and allow the Town Manager to allocate funds across departments at his discretion with a spending cap. She noted that this would require the Town Manager to set priorities and give him the financial parameters to do so.*

*A Motion to approve \$32,045,298 as a total figure for Town Operations was made by Rep. Aument, seconded by Rep. Kotowski.*

*Rep. Aument's rationale is that this will enable the Manager and professional staff to decide on the appropriate use of the approved funds.*

*The Moderator clarified that the following accounts would be included in this figure: Accounts 1001, 1003, 1005, 1006, 1010, 1013, 1014, 1024, 1035, 1046, 1051, 1063, 1064, 1070, 1071 and 1077.*

*Rep. Sebastian is frustrated with the past practice of the RTM budget review process and feels that the new approach would set an objective for the Town Manager. He agrees with Rep. Hatcher's comments.*

*Rep. Kotowski supports the motion on the floor since it is a level funding budget. She feels that this will assist the Town Manager, Town Council and RTM to focus on what Town services are essential and what are nice to have.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$32,085,298 was made by Rep. Massett, seconded by Rep. DeMatto. This figure includes funds for an Assistant Town Manager for six months as recommended by the Town Council.*

*Rep. McDermott agrees with the previous speaker and would support this amendment. He feels that the Town Manager would benefit from having an assistant.*

*Rep. Granatosky believes the Manager has completed his job in the presentation of the budget by function and the action to approve a total operations budget figure would reduce the budget by another \$500,000 in addition to the \$75,000 recommended by committees.*

*A MOTION for \$43,653 for Account 1001-Legislative Policy was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Collins.  
Democratic Floor Leader Granatosky requested a caucus.*

*POINT OF ORDER was raised by Rep. Cerf regarding the placement of a figure for another account on the floor.*

*Moderator noted that a caucus had been requested and declared a recess at 8:20. The meeting reconvened at 8:42.*

*The Moderator stated that the motion placed on the floor for \$43,653 for Account 1001 is not recognized since the main motion on floor is for a figure for Total Town Operations.*

*Responding to a question from Rep. DeMatto, the Town Manager stated that he does not feel this is an appropriate action for the RTM to approve only a bottom line figure for Town Operations. He is unsure of the legality of this process and feels that this could jeopardize the RTM's adoption of a budget per the charter and cause the Town Council's adopted budget to be the official adopted budget for FYE 2013.*

*Members discussed the legal implications of this action, the duties of the RTM as outlined in the Charter, the process for obtaining a legal determination, the difficulties of voting line by line, and tax increases that may exceed 20% for some taxpayers.*

*POINT OF ORDER was raised by Rep. Luck that the body is not discussing individual tax increases.*

*The Moderator rejected the point of order stating that the budget process does affect taxes.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$32,380,129 was made by Rep. Luck, seconded by Rep. Steinfeld. Rep. Luck stated that this figure takes into account certain increases that are necessary for the Town to function, such as fuel, contractual obligations, materials and supplies. She stated that more notice should have been given before initiating this type of action.*

*Rep. Conley will not support any of the figures on the floor. She feels the RTM should conduct a line by line review.*

*Rep. DeMatto agrees with Rep. Conley. She feels that if this action is approved, all of the budget review by the RTM committees has been for naught.*

*Rep. Gardner stated that excuses are provided each year for not reducing an account. He was the only RTM Public Works Committee member to vote "no" on any of the accounts in committee. He supports reducing the budget and will support voting on one figure for the Total Town Operations budget.*

*Rep. Baril will not support any of the figures on the floor. He believes that only a line by line review is fair to the voters of his district.*

*Rep. Swindell stated he is unsure how he will vote. He feels this action changes the goal of the RTM and violates the Town Charter. He added that the RTM pays more attention to cutting taxes than to trying to promote Groton and attract new businesses.*

*Rep. Steinfeld will not support any of these figures. She is upset with this approach to the budget and how it was developed with advice from a Town official. She feels it is necessary to address safety issues and proceed with the CIP projects that have been deferred over the last several years. She feels it is important for the continued growth of our community.*

*Rep. Massett suggested the possibility that clarification be provided at the regular RTM meeting on May 9 concerning the action being considered by the RTM if any of the motions on the floor are approved.*

*MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Sebastian, seconded by Rep. Luck. The vote on moving the question carried 27 in favor, 4 opposed, 1 abstention. (Opposed: Reps. Kotowski, Steinfeld, Swindell and Ambrose. Abstaining: Rep. Deane-Shinbrot.)*

*The vote on the amendment of \$32,380,129 was defeated 30 opposed, 2 abstentions. (Abstaining: Reps. Luck and Swindell.)*

*Rep. Sebastian stated that the Town Manager does not need an assistant, noting that the general managers at Pfizer and Electric Boat do not have assistants and have greater responsibilities.*

*POINT OF ORDER was raised by Rep. Cerf that under RTM Rule 8.5, members should refrain from personal comments.*

*The Moderator directed Rep. Sebastian to proceed only if he observes the rules of the RTM.*

*Rep. Massett supports providing an assistant to the Town Manager to provide necessary support and prevent burnout.*

*The Moderator recognized Mayor Heather Somers who suggested that this action should only be taken by the RTM after receiving a legal opinion. Alternatively, the RTM could move the adjusted FYE 2012 budget figure with all departments being funded as they were last year. She noted that a legal opinion will cost the Town additional money and commented that an Assistant Town Manager would provide needed assistance for the day to day operations of the Town. She is opposed to the motions on the floor without a full understanding of the impact on the budget.*

*Members discussed the Assistant Town Manager position, the RTM budget process, Charter revision, and the duties of the RTM as outlined in the Charter.*

*Town Councilor Bruce Flax believes that the RTM would be abdicating its responsibilities by approving one figure for Total Town Operations. He stated that it is a difficult job to review the budget accounts line by line, but it is a procedure that should be followed.*

*Rep. Chase-Hildebrand asked for clarification as to whether the intent is for all accounts to be level-funded or if the distribution of funds would be left to the discretion of the Town Manager.*

*Rep. Aument stated that it was his intent to approve a bottom line figure for Town Operations and that the Town Manager would distribute funds to each account as he deems necessary.*

*MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Luck, seconded by Rep. Sebastian. The vote on moving the question carried 21 in favor, 11 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Collins, Deane-Shinbrot, DeMatto, Granatosky, Hatcher, Hedrick, Kotowski, Massett, Steinfeld, Swindell and Ambrose.)*

*The vote on the amendment of \$32,085,298 was defeated 7 in favor, 24 opposed, 1 abstention. (In favor: Reps. Aument, Cerf, Deane-Shinbrot, Gardner, Hatcher, Hedrick, and Kotowski. Abstaining: Rep. Adams.)*

*In response to Rep. McDermott, the Moderator clarified that the main motion on the floor is a Total Town Operations budget figure and that there is no intent that each account would remain the same as last year. He noted that an amendment can be made to provide a provision for level-funding of each account.*

*MOTION TO AMEND the main motion of \$32,045,298 by adding the provision that Town Operations functions would be funded at the same level as FYE2012 was made by Rep. Gardner, seconded by Rep. Kotowski.*

*Rep. Conley stated she will oppose the motion on the floor since she feels the RTM would not be doing its job and that some departmental figures have actually decreased since last year.*

*Town Councilor Flax agreed with Rep. Conley and cited Voter Registration as an example of a necessary increase in an account due to the primaries and the presidential election in the coming fiscal year.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$32,045,298 with the provision for level funding of all accounts was defeated 4 in favor, 27 opposed, 1 abstention. (In favor: Reps. Aument, Cerf, Gardner and Kotowski. Abstaining: Rep. Swindell.)*

*The vote on \$32,045,298 was defeated 4 in favor, 27 opposed, 1 abstention. (In favor: Reps. Aument, Cerf, Gardner and Kotowski. Abstaining: Rep. Swindell.)*

## **G. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*The Moderator noted that committee minutes will be approved at each budget session only for the accounts on that evening's schedule.*

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

*Chairman Granatosky read the portion of minutes of the meeting held on April 24, 2012 for the accounts that are scheduled for this session. (Minutes are on file.)*

*Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Pasqualini.*

*The vote to approve the minutes carried 31 in favor, 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. Gardner.)*

#### **Account 1001 - Legislative Policy**

*A MOTION for \$43,653 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Baril.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$43,436 was made by Rep. Swindell, seconded by Rep. Kotowski. Rep. Swindell stated that this decrease could be taken from the RTM allocation in this account.*

*Rep. Johnson arrived at this time.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$42,653 was made by Rep. Semeraro, seconded by Rep. Aument. Rep. Semeraro feels that a reduction of \$1,000 for postage is appropriate since the RTM feels that notification by email is working well.*

*Members discussed the RTM expenses that are allocated to this account and whether the proposed reduction is feasible.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$42,653 carried 23 in favor, 10 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Baril,*

*Chase-Hildenbrand, Collins, Driscoll, Johnson, Luck, Merritt, Riley, Steinfeld and Williams.)*

#### **Account 1006 Legal Services**

*A MOTION for \$362,950 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Luck.*

*The vote on \$362,950 carried 31 in favor, 2 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Gardner and Kotowski.)*

#### **Account 1010 - Executive Management**

*A MOTION for \$294,966 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Pasqualini.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$332,984 was made by Rep. DeMatto, seconded by Rep. Massett. Rep. DeMatto noted this is the Town Council figure and includes funding for an Assistant Town Manager.*

*Members discussed the action taken by the Town Council in regard to the 2% salary adjustment and the inclusion of a new position.*

*Moderator Ambroise recognized Town Councilor Peruzzotti who explained the Council's rationale for the adjustments to this account.*

*Other items discussed were professional development, sick incentive and initiatives that may be duplicated elsewhere.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$289,924 was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Luck. Rep. Conley stated this figure removes the funding for an Assistant Town Manager and the 2% salary adjustment.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$289,924 carried 19 in favor, 14 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Adams, Baril, DeMatto, Driscoll, Hubbard, Johnson, Massett, McDermott, Merritt, Prochaska, Riley, Steinfeld, Svencer and Swindell.)*

*At 10:40 p.m., the Moderator recessed the meeting until May 2, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.*

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#### **Budget Session - Wednesday, May 2, 2012**

*Moderator Jean-Claude Ambroise called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.*

*34 members were present, and a quorum was declared.*

*The Moderator reported that Reps. Ferreira, Harrell, Riley, Streeter and Watrous notified the Town Clerk of their absence.*

*Members Present: Moderator Ambroise, Rep. Adams, Rep. Aument, Rep. Baril, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Cerf, Rep. Chase-Hildebrand, Rep. Collins, Rep. Conley, Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Driscoll, Rep. Gardner, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Hatcher, Rep. Hedrick, Rep. Heller, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Johnson, Rep. Kotowski, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Luck, Rep. Massett, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Prochaska, Rep. Semeraro, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Svencer, Rep. Swindell and Rep. Williams*

*Members Absent: Rep. Bauer, Rep. Ferreira, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Miller, Rep. Ryley, Rep. Streeter and Rep. Watrous*

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Finance Director Sal Pandolfo, Town Police Chief Michael Crowley, Deputy Chief Steve Smith, Democratic Registrar of Voters David Rose, City Mayor Marian Galbraith, City Police Chief Bruno Giuliani, City Police Captain Tom Davoren, City Councilor Larry Gerrish, City Highway Foreman Tim Umrysz, Groton Long Point President Bob Congdon, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher, Deputy Town Clerk Janet Downs and Assistant Town Clerk Sally Whitney.*

*Republican Floor Leader Jackie Massett requested a caucus at 7:04 p.m.  
The meeting resumed at 7:19 p.m.*

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

*Chairman Pasqualini read the minutes of the meeting held on April 9, 2012. (Minutes are on file.)  
Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Pasqualini, seconded by Rep. Luck and so voted unanimously.*

#### **Account 1024 - Public Safety**

*A MOTION for \$6,592,898.00 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Pasqualini, seconded by Rep. Luck.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$6,399,815 was made by Rep. McDermott, seconded by Rep. Sebastian. Rep. McDermott's rationale is based on his research on regional and national statistics. He believes that overtime costs should be reduced and that the department is overstaffed when compared to other Towns with similar population figures. He believes that it is inefficient to have three separate police departments.*

*Members discussed the various types of police positions; the ratio of supervisory personnel to patrol officers and civilian employees; the salary adjustment line; crime statistics; longevity; sick incentive; regional marine patrols; education reimbursement; overtime costs; staffing levels; Social Security contributions; Fleet Fund contributions. Groton statistics compared to other Connecticut Towns and the nation as a whole for staffing levels and crime rates were discussed.*

*Police Chief Michael Crowley responded to questions from the members. He noted that improved policing techniques, better equipment and a proactive policing policy have significantly decreased the crime rate in Groton over the last ten years. He feels it is important to maintain the current status of operations so that Groton continues to be a safe place to live with as few major crimes as possible. He talked about the grant received from the State of Connecticut to conduct special activity programs. Chief Crowley stated that overtime has been reduced by \$300,000 over the past ten years, but that any further reductions would significantly impact public safety by increasing response time and the size of patrol areas.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$6,342,124 was made by Rep. Cerf, seconded by Rep. Johnson. Rep. Cerf feels that the department is over-staffed when compared to other towns. She noted that the department should strive to save fuel and should consider "green" alternatives such as hybrid cars.*

*Chief Crowley addressed the use of hybrid cars and reported on staffing assignments.*

*MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Sebastian, seconded by Rep. Adams. The vote to move the question carried 25 in favor, 8 opposed, 1 abstention. (Opposed: Reps. Baril, Deane-Shinbrot, DeMatto, Gardner, Kotowski, Steinfeld, Swindell and Ambrose. Abstaining: Rep. Luck.)*

*The vote on the amendment of \$6,342,124 was defeated 4 in favor, 29 opposed, 1 abstention. (In Favor: Reps. Aument, Cerf, Gardner and Kotowski. Abstaining: Rep. Luck.)*

*Chief Crowley stated that the first amended figure of \$6,399,815 would impact patrol staffing.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$6,496,356 was made by Rep. Hatcher, seconded by Rep. Johnson. Rep. Hatcher stated that her rationale is to achieve a compromise between the original motion and the last figure that was defeated.*

*Chief Crowley projected that a \$96,000 reduction would necessitate an increase in the size of*



*patrol areas and possibly result in an increase in crime.*

*MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Driscoll, seconded by Rep. Deane-Shinbrot.*

*The vote to move the question carried 27 in favor, 7 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Aument, Gardner, Kotowski, Newsome, Steinfeld, Swindell and Ambrose.)*

*The vote on the amendment of \$6,496,356 was defeated 9 in favor, 25 opposed. (In Favor: Reps. Aument, Cerf, Chase-Hildenbrand, Deane-Shinbrot, Gardner, Hatcher, Johnson, Kotowski and Newsome.)*

*MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION on the first amended figure was made by Rep. Luck, seconded by Rep. Pasqualini.*

*The vote on moving the question carried 25 in favor, 9 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Aument, Kotowski, Massett, McDermott, Newsome, Semeraro, Steinfeld, Swindell and Ambrose.)*

*The vote on the amendment of \$6,399,815 was defeated 7 in favor, 27 opposed. (In Favor: Reps. Aument, Cerf, Deane-Shinbrot, Gardner, Kotowski, McDermott and Semeraro.)*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$6,540,500 was made by Rep. Gardner, seconded by Rep. Johnson. No rationale was provided.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$6,540,500 was defeated 8 in favor, 26 opposed. (In Favor: Reps. Aument, Cerf, Deane-Shinbrot, Gardner, Kotowski, Loughlin, McDermott and Newsome.)*

*Discussion ensued on the main motion of \$6,592,898. Items discussed were the marine patrol boat; the 2% salary adjustment; specific neighborhood crime rates; uniform/clothing allowance; dive team equipment.*

*The Town Manager clarified the Council's action on the salary adjustment line. He specified that the police union contract was settled and includes a 2% raise for FYE2013, but that civilian employees are still in negotiations.*

*MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Luck, seconded by Rep. Hubbard. The vote to move the question carried 27 in favor, 7 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Aument, Cerf, Gardner, Kotowski, Newsome, Swindell and Ambrose.)*

*The vote on \$6,592,898 carried 29 in favor, 5 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Aument, Cerf, Gardner, Kotowski and McDermott.)*

*A recess was taken at 9:15; the meeting resumed at 9:32.*

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

*Chairman Granatosky read the portion of minutes from the meeting held on April 19, 2012 pertaining to accounts 1003, 1005, 1090, 1091 and CIP's for the City and Groton Long Point. (Minutes are on file.)*

*Motion to approve the partial minutes was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Luck and so voted unanimously.*

#### **Account 1003 - Voter Registration**

*A MOTION for \$147,239 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Johnson.*

*Rep. Massett disclosed that her husband is the Republican Registrar.*

*The vote on \$147,239 carried 33 in favor, 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. Kotowski.)*

**Account 1005 - Town Clerk**

*A MOTION for \$367,323 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Grantosky, seconded by Rep. Johnson.*

*The Town Clerk verified that the salary adjustment line includes only wage increases which were cut by the Council.*

*The vote on \$367,323 carried 31 in favor, 1 opposed, 2 abstentions. (Opposed: Rep. Aument. Abstaining: Reps. Gardner and Kotowski.)*

**Account 10900 - City of Groton Police**

*A MOTION for \$2,253,752 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Johnson.*

*Rep. Hedrick disclosed that he is a Groton City Councilor.*

*Moderator Ambroise recognized Groton City Mayor Marian Galbraith who addressed the members about the City's budget request. She explained the correction to the City's original budget submittal and the reasons for establishing a Pavement Management CIP instead of including the cost in the budget request. She provided statistics on the incidents of crime, staffing and operational costs. She noted that the City has a greater residential population density than the Town as well as an increase in daytime population due to Pfizer and Electric Boat.*

*Members discussed police operational costs, duties of the dispatch staff at City headquarters; overtime costs; lock-up procedures; communication capabilities among the three police departments; and charter provisions for funding the City and Groton Long Point.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$2,221,752 was made by Rep. Kotowski, seconded by Rep. Gardner. Rep. Kotowski feels that the figure speaks for itself.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$2,352,209 was made by Rep. Luck, seconded by Rep. Granatosky. The rationale is that safety for residents should not be compromised. She believes that reductions can be made elsewhere in the budget.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$2,352,209 failed 10 in favor, 24 opposed. (In Favor: Reps. Cerf, Chase-Hildebrand, Driscoll, Granatosky, Hedrick, Heller, Luck, Massett, Merritt and Ambroise.)*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$2,332,352 was made by Rep. Swindell, seconded by Rep. Johnson. This figure restores the Town Council reduction and adds funds for Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) which is a new accounting requirement.*

*Moderator Ambroise noted that this amendment would take a two-thirds vote since it is restoring funds above the figure approved by the Town Council.*

*Rep. Cerf supports this amendment and stated that it is important to be equitable in funding the police departments.*

*Members discussed the cost of OPEB, the impact on safety if funds are cut, and specific services that would be reduced.*

*Mayor Galbraith stated that the marine harbor patrol would be significantly reduced.*

*Rep. Luck left during the discussion; 33 members remained.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$2,332,352 was defeated 9 in favor, 24 opposed. (In Favor: Reps. Barnhart, Cerf, Driscoll, Granatosky, Hedrick, Massett, Merritt, Swindell and Ambroise.)*

*The vote on the amendment of \$2,221,752 was defeated 7 in favor, 26 opposed. (In Favor: Reps. Adams, Aument, Deane-Shinbrot, Gardner, Kotowski, Loughlin and Semeraro.)*

*The vote on \$2,253,752 carried 30 in favor, 3 opposed. (In Favor: Reps. Aument, Gardner, Kotowski.)*

#### **Account 10901 - City of Groton Highway Maintenance**

*A MOTION for \$2,254,608 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Johnson.*

*Town Manager Mark Oefinger provided a history of the City and Groton Long Point Highway Maintenance accounts. Both the Town Manager and City Mayor conceded that there is confusion over the language regarding the Town's obligation for City highway maintenance. A possible memo of understanding regarding the City's highway budget has been discussed by the City and the Town.*

*Members discussed the requirement for funding of the highway budget by the Town and the ability to approve reductions when highway projects are presented as CIP items.*

*Mayor Galbraith confirmed that snow removal, road patching, drainage, sidewalks, curbs and roadside maintenance are included in the annual request. She noted that large-scale paving projects are contracted out and that Groton Estates is an example of a project that was moved to a CIP.*

*The vote on \$2,254,608 carried 28 in favor, 3 opposed, 2 abstentions. (Opposed: Reps. Aument, Deane-Shinbrot and Gardner. Abstaining: Reps. Baril and Kotowski.)*

#### **Account 10904 - City of Groton Street Lighting**

*A MOTION for \$114,197 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Steinfeld.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$75,550 was made by Rep. Gardner, seconded by Rep. Kotowski. Rep. Gardner feels there are too many street lights and that lighting of ball fields and basketball courts could be reduced.*

*The Town Manager noted that this expenditure would only be reduced if the number of street lights were decreased. He reviewed past attempts to reduce the number of streetlights.*

*Mayor Galbraith noted that lights are being upgraded with the LED and green options to improve efficiency and reduce costs.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$75,550 was defeated 3 in favor, 30 opposed. (In Favor: Reps. Cerf, Gardner and Kotowski.)*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$111,197 was made by Rep. Aument, seconded by Rep. Johnson. Rep. Aument stated that this is last year's budgeted figure.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$111,197 was defeated 3 in favor, 30 opposed. (In Favor: Reps. Aument, Gardner and Kotowski.)*

*The vote on \$114,197 carried 30 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstention. (Opposed: Reps. Aument and*

*Gardner. Abstaining: Rep. Kotowski.)*

**Total for Account 1090 - City of Groton: \$4,622,557**

**Capital Item - Pavement Management Program Implementation - City**

*A MOTION for \$400,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.*

*Mayor Galbraith explained the logic of placing funds in a CIP account so that a total paving project can be funded over several fiscal years. This account would provide funds for large paving projects and improved planning as long as the CIP account is not reduced.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$0 was made by Rep. Kotowski, seconded by Rep. Aument. Rep. Kotowski feels that this funding can be eliminated.*

*Members discussed the practice of eliminating contributions for paving and the shortsightedness of not properly maintaining the roads in the Town and its subdivisions. Also mentioned was the possible legal expense if the City or Groton Long Point challenged the Town.*

*MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Heller, seconded by Rep. Adams. The vote to move the question carried 26 in favor, 7 opposed. (Opposed; Reps. Aument, Cerf, Gardner, Kotowski, Newsome, Swindell and Ambroise.)*

*The vote on the amendment of \$0 was defeated 3 in favor, 29 opposed, 1 abstention. (In Favor: Reps. Aument, Gardner and Kotowski. Abstaining: Rep. Deane-Shinbrot.)*

*Members discussed reducing accounts in order to represent their constituents and keep taxes down, responsibility to future taxpayers, and long-term planning to prevent major street repairs in the future.*

*The Town Manager explained the possibility of a long-term, multi-year bonding project for road maintenance and paving which would include both subdivisions. Such a project would have to be approved at a referendum and no roads would be paved for the next two years. He feels that road maintenance needs to be addressed and that many roads need attention.*

*City Highway Foreman Tim Umrysz explained that Groton Estates is an example of a large paving project that would take place over two fiscal years, allowing for allocation of funds in both FYE2013 and FYE2014.*

*The vote on \$400,000 carried 28 in favor, 5 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Aument, Deane-Shinbrot, Gardner, Hatcher and Kotowski.)*

*Reps. Johnson, Loughlin and Swindell left at this time; 30 members remained.*

**Account 10910 - Groton Long Point Police**

*A MOTION for \$220,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$175,000 was made by Rep. Pasqualini, seconded by Rep. Kotowski. Rep. Pasqualini believes that equal reductions should be made to all three police departments.*

*Groton Long Point President Bob Congdon stated that the requested figure is determined by the cost of service if provided by the Town and after discussion with Chief Crowley.*

*Members discussed crime statistics; some expressed the opinion that that the amendment does not reflect a reduction equal to that made to the Town and City police requests; some believe that the*

*service would cost more if provided by the Town.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$175,000 was defeated 5 in favor, 25 opposed. (In Favor: Reps. Aument, Deane-Shinbrot, Kotowski, McDermott and Pasqualini.)*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$200,500 was made by Rep. Semeraro, seconded by Rep. Hatcher. This is the adjusted FYE2012 figure and represents no increase.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$200,500 carried 16 in favor, 14 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Baril, Cerf, Collins, Conley, DeMatto, Gardner, Hatcher, Hubbard, Merritt, Newsome, Prochaska, Sebastian, Steinfeld and Svencer.)*

#### **Account 19011 - Groton Long Point Highway Maintenance**

*A MOTION for \$146,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.*

*The vote on \$146,000 carried 25 in favor, 1 opposed, 4 abstentions. (Opposed: Rep. Steinfeld. Abstaining: Reps. Adams, Baril, Gardner and Kotowski.)*

#### **Account 10912 - Groton Long Point Street Lighting**

*A MOTION for \$13,325 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Svencer.*

*The Town Manager confirmed that this account pays for electric usage only and that no new streets lights are planned. He noted that street lights are rarely replaced since they have a long life expectancy.*

*The vote on \$13,325 carried 28 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention. (Opposed: Rep. Kotowski. Abstaining: Rep. Gardner.)*

#### **Total for Account 1091 - Groton Long Point: \$359,825**

#### **Capital Item - Pavement Management Program Implementation - Groton Long Point**

*A MOTION for \$131,230 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Hatcher.*

*In response to members' questions, Mr. Congdon stated that Ridge Street is the only road to be paved and that safety barriers will be purchased and installed during FYE2013.*

*The vote on \$131,230 carried 27 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 non-voting. (Opposed: Reps. Aument and Kotowski. Non-voting: Rep. Gardner.)*

*Rep. Kotowski addressed the body regarding decorum during debate. She feels that disrespectful comments are being made to representatives and that a representative should not be questioned on the intent of a motion that reduces an account. She stated that her intent is not to reduce the budget recklessly but to represent the constituents of her district who have voiced opposition to an increase in their taxes. She cited the resounding vote against the Phase II School Bonding Referendum which would have increased taxes.*

*Moderator Ambrose informed Rep. Kotowski that she may raise a Point of Order at any time she feels a rule of the RTM is being violated and assured her that he will address the issue.*

*At 11:54 p.m., the Moderator recessed the meeting until May 7, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.*

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#### **Budget Session - Monday May 7, 2012**

*Moderator Jean-Claude Ambrose called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.*

*31 members were present, and a quorum was declared.*

*The Moderator reported that Reps. Baril, Barnhart, Chase-Hildebrand, Harrell, Granatosky, Johnson, Luck and Prochaska notified the Town Clerk of their absence.*

*Members Present: Moderator Ambroise, Rep. Adams, Rep. Aument, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Cerf, Rep. Collins, Rep. Conley, Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Driscoll, Rep. Ferreira, Rep. Gardner, Rep. Hatcher, Rep. Hedrick, Rep. Heller, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Kotowski, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Massett, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Ryley, Rep. Semeraro, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Svencer, Rep. Swindell, Rep. Watrous and Rep. Williams*

*Members Absent: Rep. Baril, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Chase-Hildebrand, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Johnson, Rep. Luck, Rep. Miller, Rep. Newsome and Rep. Prochaska*

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Finance Director Sal Pandolfo, Manager of Recreation Services Jerry Lokken, Shennecossett Golf Course Superintendent Eric Morrison, Golf Professional Todd Goodhue, Human Services Director Marjorie Fondulas, Planning & Development Director Michael Murphy, Economic Development Specialist Barbara Strother, Manager of Inspection Services Kevin Quinn, Program/Project Manager Rick Norris, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Assistant Town Clerk Sally Whitney.*

## **RECREATION COMMITTEE**

*Chairman Streeter read the minutes of the meeting held on April 19, 2012. (Minutes are on file.)*

*Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Streeter, seconded by Rep. Hedrick and so voted unanimously.*

### **Account 1064 - Parks & Recreation**

*A MOTION for \$1,820,986 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Streeter, seconded by Rep. Svencer.*

*Rep. Watrous disclosed that she is a Town employee.*

*The Town Manager reported that Acting Parks & Recreation Director Doug Ackerman and Senior Center Supervisor Mary Jo Riley are ill and unable to attend. He recognized Manager of Recreation Services Jerry Lokken to clarify questions and concerns.*

*Members discussed the 2% salary adjustment; reassignment of employee salaries to different cost centers; allocation of seasonal and part-time staff; ratio of resident to non-resident participation; program fee structure; designated donation funds; the vacant Parks & Recreation Director position; enrollment figures; and hours of operation. It was noted that the Senior Center hours are inconvenient for seniors who are still working.*

*Mr. Lokken stated that there are plans to increase hours and offer more evening programs.*

*The vote on \$1,820,986 carried 22 in favor, 7 opposed, 2 abstentions. (Opposed: Reps. Aument, Bauer, Cerf, Deane-Shinbrot, Gardner, Hatcher and Kotowski. Abstaining: Reps. Adams and Massett.)*

### **Account 3240 - Recreation & Senior Activities**

*A MOTION for \$811,728 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Streeter, seconded by Rep. Collins.*

*Members discussed participant cost per program and printing, postage and advertising costs.*

*Mr. Lokken explained the use of the revenue, program fees and fund balance for this account. He reported that the summer beach concert series receives no General Fund support but is fully funded by private donations, fund raising revenue, parking fees and private sponsorship. He emphasized that no taxpayer money is used to fund the summer beach concerts.*

*The vote on \$811,728 carried 30 in favor, 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. Gardner.)*

**Account 2010 - Shennecossett Golf Course**

*A MOTION for \$1,171,427 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Streeter, seconded by Rep. Svencer.*

*The Moderator remarked that this account is self-funded and self-sustaining through fees.*

*Members discussed fees, increased revenues due to the mild winter, use of profits, and fund balance.*

*Mr. Goodhue explained that revenue is dependent on weather conditions. He reported that in November there was a \$25,000 deficit and on April 30th there was a balance of \$50,000 due to the mild winter weather and an increase in the number of rounds played.*

*The Manager provided information about the changes made in salary allocation. He reported on the projected growth of the fund balance and the possible use for CIP projects if the balance surpasses 10%. He stated that this is a historic Town asset that needs maintenance and repairs.*

*Mr. Morrison noted that a \$15,000 fund balance is projected, but that one rainy weekend could result in the loss of \$20,000 in revenue. This uncertainty is an additional reason to grow the fund balance to 10% before utilizing the fund for CIP projects.*

*In response to members, the Manager confirmed that the Council increased contingency by \$150,000, but that this is not equivalent to the 2% salary adjustment figure removed from all accounts. He mentioned that golf fees, cart rentals, lessons and the restaurant lease all generate revenue for this account. He noted that if a CIP is not approved, the project will not be done. The fund balance in this account will not be used to fund CIP's until it exceeds 10%.*

*The vote on \$1,171,427 carried 30 in favor, 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. Hatcher.)*

**Capital Item - Facilities Improvement**

*A MOTION for \$125,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Streeter, seconded by Rep. Collins.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$0 was made by Rep. Aument, seconded by Rep. Kotowski. Rep. Aument noted that Farquhar Park is not utilized. This project is not necessary and there is a need to eliminate non-essential items due to the economic climate.*

*The Manager noted that this project has been eliminated for the past five years. His office receives constant complaints regarding the condition of the basketball and tennis courts. The poor condition of these facilities prevents higher usage. He feels the repairs are necessary and it would be cost effective to do both simultaneously.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$75,000 was made by Rep. Semeraro, seconded by Rep. Cerf. This figure funds the necessary repairs, but removes \$50,000 for the field study. She feels that encouraging sports activity is good for the community.*

*Members discussed the fact that CIP projects become more expensive the longer they are delayed. In addition, the Town's image suffers for delaying repair and maintenance of its community facilities.*

*The Manager explained that the study is being contracted out to ensure proper drainage and design at the proposed fields at the Merritt property. He noted the problems that exist at Poquonnock Plains Park which is over-utilized and requires maintenance.*

*Members discussed the location of Farquhar Park; anticipated usage; importance of proper drainage for fields; the impact of delay on the cost of the study; and the Town's responsibility to encourage community wellness and decrease child obesity and diabetes.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$75,000 carried 16 in favor, 15 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Aument, Bauer, Cerf, Driscoll, Gardner, Hedrick, Heller, Kotowski, Loughlin, McDermott, Merritt, Sebastian, Steinfeld, Streeter and Svencer.)*

#### **Capital Item - Trail Improvement Program**

*A MOTION for \$200,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Streeter, seconded by Rep. Svencer.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$0 was made by Rep. Aument, seconded by Rep. Kotowski. Rep. Aument feels that grants should be sought to fund this item. He noted the proximity of the trail to the reservoir and added that now is not the time to spend money on unnecessary projects.*

*The Moderator clarified that application has been made for a \$160,000 grant; the Town's contribution is only \$40,000.*

*Members discussed whether this project is necessary and the ramifications if the Town does not receive the grant. Also mentioned were the timeframe for grant applications and use of grant funds; the project's role in encouraging economic development and tourism; the development of the Tri-Town Trailway; the need to encourage healthy outdoor activities; a paved versus a gravel trail; and trail maintenance costs.*

*The Town Manager explained the necessity of approving the total funding for a project even though only \$40,000 is Town money. He noted that if the grant is not received, the \$40,000 will be returned to the Capital Reserve Account.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$0 was defeated 4 in favor, 26 opposed, 1 abstention. (In Favor: Reps. Aument, Gardner, Hubbard and Kotowski. Abstaining: Rep. Adams.)*

*The vote on \$200,000 carried 26 in favor, 5 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Adams, Aument, Gardner, Hubbard and Kotowski.)*

#### **Capital Item - Golf Course Improvement Plan**

*A MOTION for \$50,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Streeter, seconded by Rep. Svencer.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$0 was made by Rep. Aument, seconded by Rep. Kotowski. Rep. Aument feels that this not an appropriate time to spend this money and that this project would not produce a good return on the investment.*

*Members discussed the planned improvements; possible scaling-down of the project; the maximization of income; the impact of delay on the project; the use of the Internet for booking tee times; and who will perform the work.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$0 was defeated 12 in favor, 19 opposed. (In Favor: Reps. Adams, Aument, Deane-Shinbrot, Ferreira, Gardner, Hedrick, Heller, Hubbard, Kotowski, McDermott, Pasqualini, and Swindell.)*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$25,000 was made by Rep. Gardner, seconded by Rep. Aument. The figure is a compromise and would save some taxpayer money.*

*Mr. Morrison stated that the project would have to be reviewed and rescaled to determine exactly*



*what could be accomplished with the reduced funding.*

*Members discussed construction assistance by Public Works employees and the impact on golfers since the area would be disturbed twice to complete the entire project.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$25,000 carried 18 in favor, 13 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Bauer, Collins, Conley, DeMatto, Driscoll, Massett, Merritt, Sebastian, Steinfeld, Streeter, Svencer, Watrous and Williams.)*

*Rep. Sebastian left at 9:30 p.m.; 30 members remained.*

#### **Capital Item - Aquatics Center**

*A MOTION for \$0 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Streeter, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.*

*Members discussed the costs of using Avery Point and the former Mystic Education Center. It was noted that many residents support construction of a pool, but that this is not the right time for this project.*

*The Town Manager noted that a privately-developed aquatic center or a pool serving a number of communities would be desirable, but added that it would be necessary to find partners that would provide their fair share of the funding .*

*The vote on \$0 carried 26 in favor, 4 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Bauer, Loughlin, Merritt and Svencer.)*

#### **Capital Item - Park Improvement Plan**

*A MOTION for \$5,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Streeter, seconded by Rep. Hedrick.*

*The vote on \$5,000 carried 23 in favor, 6 opposed, 1 abstention. (Opposed: Reps. Aument, Bauer, Gardner, Hatcher, Kotowski and McDermott. Abstaining: Rep. Deane-Shinbrot.)*

*Moderator announced a recess at 9:43 and the meeting resumed at 10:00 p.m.*

#### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES COMMITTEE**

*Chairman Ferreira read the minutes of the meeting held on April 23, 2012. (Minutes are on file.) Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Ferreira, seconded by Rep. Rep. Aument and so voted unanimously.*

#### **Account 1051 - Human Services**

*A MOTION for \$564,294 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Ferreira, seconded by Rep. Svencer and so voted unanimously.*

#### **Account 7320 - Human Services Assistance Fund**

*A MOTION for \$40,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Ferreira, seconded by Rep. Svencer and so voted unanimously.*

#### **Account 1046 - Planning & Development**

*A MOTION for \$1,182,401 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Ferreira, seconded by Rep. Svencer.*

*Planning Director Michael Murphy clarified that the new position proposed in this budget is replacing a vacant Inspector II position. He noted that the new position is a lower pay grade and will provide technical support throughout the department.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$947,089 was made by Rep. Cerf, seconded by Rep. Gardner. Re. Cerf's rationale is based on the decline in building activity and the fact that that two positions have been*

*added to this department since 2003. She cannot justify the current staffing level and recommends a reduction in employees, preferably by encouraging retirements to avoid layoffs. She suggested that professional development and conference expenses should be cut.*

*Mr. Murphy enumerated the various positions that have been eliminated and reclassified to address the current needs of the department. He listed the areas of responsibility that the department addresses both for day-to-day operations and to continue implementation of the Master Plan of Development.*

*In response to Rep. DeMatto's correction of the calculations on the amended figure, Reps. Cerf and Gardner withdrew the amendment in order to correct the figure.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$1,117,401 was made by Rep. Cerf, seconded by Rep. Gardner. The figure represents a reduction of one average salary position and eliminates \$5,000 in professional development.*

*Members discussed economic development needs; the enterprise zone; implementation of a blight code; the property maintenance code; the Community Development Loan Program; assistance to Pfizer to impelment reuse of its vacant buildings; encouragement for incubator businesses to locate and grow in the community; staffing structure of the Planning Department and duites of employees; inspection services; encouragement of economic development; and reductions to Planning staff.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$1,117,401 was defeated 3 in favor, 27 opposed. (In Favor: Reps. Cerf, Gardner and Kotowski.)*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$1,140,176 was made by Rep. Kotowski, seconded by Rep. Gardner. This figure reduces the number of employees and salary costs for FYE2013.*

*The Town Manager and Finance Director Sal Pandolfo explained the salaries in this account. It was noted that a vacant position remained unfilled in FYE2012*

*Members continued discussion on the flexibility of moving resources and personnel from Planning and Building Services to Economic Development without an increase in personnel or costs.*

*The Town Manager acknowledged that he could use more resources for economic development and refocus the efforts of personnel to this area. He stated that growth in development would stretch the department to its limits.*

*Rep. Semeraro stated that the discussion clearly indicates a desire to improve economic development by redirecting the current resources within the department.*

*Rep. Collins believes that basic level service could be maintained with existing staff but encouraged support for additional marketing funds. This is needed to attract business and stimulate industrial growth in our community.*

*MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Collins.*

*The vote on moving the question carried 28 in favor, 2 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Aument and Kotowski.)*

*The vote on the amendment of \$1,140,176 was defeated 2 in favor, 28 opposed. (In Favor: Reps. Cerf and Kotowski.)*

*MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Merritt, seconded by Rep. Adams.*

*The vote moving the question carried 29 in favor, 1 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. Kotowski.)*

*The vote on \$1,182,401 carried 28 in favor, 2 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Cerf and Kotowski.)*

*The Moderator recessed the budget session at 11:45 p.m. and reminded members that the next budget session is Wednesday May 9, 2012 immediately following the regular RTM at 7:30. He will inform members when the remaining three CIP accounts scheduled for this session will be considered.*

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### **Budget Session - Wednesday May 9, 2012**

*Moderator Jean-Claude Ambroise called the meeting to order at 8:09 p.m.*

*32 members were present, and a quorum was declared.*

*The Moderator reported that Reps. Aument, Harrell, Luck, Miller and Williams notified the Town Clerk of their absence.*

*Members Present: Moderator Ambroise, Rep. Adams, Rep. Baril, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Cerf, Rep. Chase-Hildebrand, Rep. Collins, Rep. Conley, Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Driscoll, Rep. Gardner, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Hatcher, Rep. Hedrick, Rep. Heller, Rep. Johnson, Rep. Kotowski, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Massett, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Prochaska, Rep. Ryley, Rep. Semeraro, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Swindell and Rep. Watrous*  
*Members Absent: Rep. Aument, Rep. Ferreira, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Luck, Rep. Miller, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Svencer and Rep. Williams*

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Finance Director Sal Pandolfo, Acting Superintendent of Schools MaryAnn Butler, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds Wes Greenleaf, Board of Education District Business Manager Carolyn Dickey, Board of Education members, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Assistant Town Clerk Sally Whitney.*

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

*Chairman Granatosky read the portion of minutes of the meeting held on April 24, 2012 pertaining to Account 1013 Finance Administration. (Minutes are on file.)*

*Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Johnson and so voted unanimously.*

#### **Account 1013 Finance Administration**

*A MOTION for \$1,348,460 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Johnson.*

*The vote on \$1,348,460 carried 30 in favor, 2 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Gardner and Kotowski.)*

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

*Chairman Hedrick read the minutes of the meetings held on April 17, 2012 and April 18, 2012 (Minutes are on file.)*

*Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Hedrick, seconded by Rep. Johnson.*

*Chairman Hedrick reviewed the Education Cost Sharing penalty that the Town will incur if the body reduces this account.*

*The vote to approve the minutes carried unanimously.*

#### **Account 1080 - Education**

*A MOTION for \$72,645,500 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Hedrick, seconded by Rep. Johnson.*

*Members discussed the number of supervisory positions; the use of surplus insurance funds;*

positions previously funded by stimulus monies; costs associated with the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program; and Advanced Placement Testing (AP) for a limited number of students.

Acting School Superintendent MaryAnn Butler acknowledged that staffing levels are reviewed after budget approval and are based on student enrollment at each school. She explained the State recommendations for IB and AP programs and the district's policy. She noted that the BOE is constantly adjusting positions and resources to improve the learning environment for students. Ms. Butler assured members that the Insurance Fund is used only for insurance coverage and explained this year's use of the surplus as the annual contribution to the operating budget.

Other items discussed were the Town's poverty rate; the number of students eligible for the free lunch program; enrollment figures; student achievement scores; virtual classroom programs and equipment; regional comparison of the education cost per student; lack of transparency and understanding of the information as presented in the budget book; the expanded offering of new classes; teacher salary increases of 46% since 1995; and the number of para-professionals and their duties.

Rep. Deane-Shinbrot disclosed that she is an employee of the Board of Education.

The vote on \$72,645,500 carried 26 in favor, 5 opposed, 1 abstention. (Opposed: Reps. Cerf, Gardner, Kotowski, Loughlin and McDermott. Abstaining: Rep. Deane-Shinbrot.)

The Moderator called a recess at 9:20 p.m. and the meeting resumed at 9:41p.m.

#### **Capital Item - School Design Phase II**

A MOTION for \$25,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Hedrick, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.

MOTION TO AMEND to \$75,000 was made by Rep. Swindell, seconded by Steinford. This figure represents the estimated cost to continue development of plans for a referendum on a Phase II school proposal. It was confirmed that any unused funds would revert to the General Reserve Fund.

The Town Manager explained the process that is being undertaken jointly by the Board of Education and the Town Council. He mentioned that the major emphasis is to propose a Phase II school program that will be approved by the taxpayers. He noted that they intend to use a facilitator to assist with encouraging community participation, drafting a survey, reviewing locations and providing impartial guidance throughout the development process. He stated that a previous plan may be updated, revised, and proposed.

Members discussed the long-term CIP costs for existing school facilities; addressing racial imbalance in the school district to maximize State reimbursement for school construction; identifying why the first referendum on Phase II failed; downsizing the next proposed plan; implementing a moratorium on school building development plans.

Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds Wes Greenleaf identified the numerous items that need repair and maintenance over the next six years. He stated that the most critical items were included this year to keep the facilities functional. He urged support of the \$75,000 so that a comprehensive Phase II plan can move forward.

Discussion continued on delaying the Blue Ribbon Task Force recommendations; living with existing facilities with modest renovations versus new construction; identifying what the community wishes are for middle school facilities.

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$0 was made by Rep. Gardner, seconded by Rep. Kotowski. Rep. Gardner believes that the reasons why Phase I passed and Phase II failed are well-known. He feels that the BOE has no plan ready to forward to the voters for approval.*

*Mr. Greenleaf clarified that previous plans would be reviewed and revised to determine the best way to proceed with renovations, modernization and construction without bias by utilizing a facilitator.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$0 was defeated 3 in favor, 28 opposed, 1 abstention. (In Favor: Reps. Cerf, Gardner and Kotowski. Abstaining: Rep. Deane-Shinbrot.)*

*MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Granatoski, seconded by Rep. Baril.*

*The vote to move the question carried 26 in favor, 6 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Cerf, Deane-Shinbrot, Gardner, Kotowski, Newsome and Ambroise.)*

*The vote on \$75,000 carried 24 in favor, 7 opposed, 1 abstention. (Opposed: Reps. Cerf, Deane-Shinbrot, Gardner, Kotowski, Loughlin, McDermott and Pasqualini. Abstaining: Rep. Adams.)*

#### **Capital Item - Asbestos Removal**

*A MOTION for \$250,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Hedrick, seconded by Rep. Johnson.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$0 was made by Rep. Kotowski, seconded by Rep. Gardner. Rep. Kotowski's rationale is to fund what is necessary and eliminate funding for non-essential items.*

*In response to questions, Superintendent of Building and Grounds Wes Greenleaf addressed the cost efficiency of doing the removal at Mary Morrison as one project rather than room by room. The plan is to remove asbestos in all schools by FYE2017 by utilizing CIP funds and reimbursable grants. The Mary Morrison project would be completed during this summer's school break. Mr. Greenleaf believes that the reimbursable grant is approximately 40-50% of the cost for this project. He explained the processes for approval of CIP funds and for reimbursement. He added that other maintenance options have been explored to avoid the cost of asbestos removal.*

*Rep. Pasqualini suggested a separate asbestos removal fund to allow tracking of usage and reimbursements.*

*Rep. Gardner agreed with Rep. Pasqualini and that he would support the main motion if the fund were established.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$0 was defeated 1 in favor, 30 opposed, 1 abstention. (In Favor: Rep. Kotowski. Abstaining: Rep. Gardner.)*

*MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was not recognized by the Moderator since ten minutes of debate had not taken place on the main motion.*

*The Town Manager confirmed that reimbursements are returned to the Capital Reserve Fund. He would need to consult with the Finance Director to establish a specific asbestos reimbursement fund to track this funding over the next six years. Six years is the projected time-line to abate non-friable asbestos in all school facilities. The Manager reiterated the processes for approving CIP funds, expenditure of funds, and return of reimbursements to the Capital Reserve Fund. He noted that the Town has been using this procedure for over 30 years.*

*The vote on \$250,000 carried 30 in favor, 2 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Cerf and Kotowski.)*

**Capital Item - Charles Barnum School**

*A MOTION for \$ 108,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Hedrick, seconded by Rep. Collins.*

*The Moderator noted that 50% reimbursement will be received upon completion of this project.*

*Mr. Greenleaf explained the reasons why professional design work is needed for this project. Other items discussed were the current fire code and the existing violations that are grandfathered by a waiver; audible fire alarm announcement in all occupied rooms; emergency egress windows, sprinkler systems; and the insufficient number of fire alarms.*

*The vote on \$108,000 carried 29 in favor, 3 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Cerf, Gardner and Kotowski.)*

*Rep. Newsome left at 10:50.; 31 members remained.*

**Capital Item - S.B. Butler School**

*A MOTION for \$270,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Hedrick, seconded by Rep. Collins.*

*Members discussed the merits of boiler replacement and upgrades to fire safety. The school may come off-line but continue to be maintained for use.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$375,000 was made by Rep. Merritt, seconded by Rep. Barnhart. The figure represents replacement of the boiler and installation of temporary generators in case of failure, as well as the design work for fire safety issues, since this school will be used for a minimum of 6 more years.*

*Items discussed were salvage costs for the boiler if the school is taken off-line in 6 years; reimbursement for the \$100,000 cost of design work to address the fire code deficiencies; Town Council reasoning for their reduction in this account; and the next phase of school-wide facility renovations and construction.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$375,000 was defeated 9 in favor, 22 opposed. (In Favor: Reps. Baril, Conley, DeMatto, Driscoll, Granatosky, Heller, Massett, Merritt, Steinfeld.)*

*The vote on \$270,000 carried 30 in favor, 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. Merritt.)*

**Capital Item - Fitch High School**

*A MOTION for \$600,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Hedrick, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.*

*Members discussed the age, condition, location and size of the roof to be replaced.*

*Rep. Watrous left at 11:08 p.m.; 30 members remained.*

*Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds Wes Greenleaf confirmed that the roof section to be replaced is over 33 years old. He explained that the project design is drafted within established parameters to be eligible for available grants. He stated that the Town has been very successful in capturing grant money for many projects. Mr. Greenleaf confirmed the timeline for this project; bidding will start in a few days with a completion date of August 17, 2012.*

*MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Semeraro, seconded by Rep. Driscoll.*

*The vote on moving the question carried 26 in favor, 4 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Cerf, Gardner,*

*Kotowski and Ambroise.)*

*The vote on \$600,000 carried 28 in favor, 2 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Gardner and Deane-Shinbrot.)*

#### **Capital Item - Mary Morrison School**

*A MOTION for \$90,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Hedrick, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.*

*The Moderator confirmed that this account is eligible for 50% reimbursement, but that the total funding needs to be approved. He stated that this is the Town Council figure.*

*Mr. Greenleaf confirmed that this project addresses life-saving safety issues that were previously discussed for the Charles Barnum School CIP. He stated that this school is not slated for closure and that it is a smart investment to properly update and maintain this facility.*

*The vote on \$90,000 carried 27 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstention. (Opposed: Reps. Cerf and Kotowski. Abstaining: Rep. Gardner.)*

#### **Capital Item - Administration**

*A MOTION for \$0 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Hedrick, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.*

*Mr. Greenleaf noted that this building has minimal use by students, but is in need of modernization and renovation. The Town Council's decision to reduce this account is based on the fact that the building is used mostly by adults and it is hoped that the building will be decommissioned. He stated that the Board of Education Central Office will be relocated to another vacant school facility.*

*The vote on \$0 carried 28 in favor, 2 abstentions. (Abstaining: Reps. Merritt and Steinford.)*

*At 11:30 p.m., the Moderator recessed the meeting until Monday, May 14, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.*

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#### **Budget Session - Monday, May 14, 2012**

*Moderator Jean-Claude Ambroise called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.*

*34 members were present, and a quorum was declared.*

*The Moderator reported that Reps. Deane-Shinbrot, Luck and Pasqualini notified the Town Clerk of their absence.*

*Members Present: Moderator Ambroise, Rep. Adams, Rep. Aument, Rep. Baril, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Cerf, Rep. Chase-Hildebrand, Rep. Collins, Rep. Conley, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Driscoll, Rep. Ferreira, Rep. Gardner, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Hedrick, Rep. Heller, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Johnson, Rep. Kotowski, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Massett, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Prochaska, Rep. Ryley, Rep. Semeraro, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Steinford, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Svencer, Rep. Watrous and Rep. Williams*  
*Members Absent: Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. Hatcher, Rep. Luck, Rep. Miller, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Pasqualini Jr. and Rep. Swindell*

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Public Works Director Gary Schneider, Assistant Directors Carl Almquist and John Carrington, Finance Director Sal Pandolfo, Manager of Information Technology Brian Hancock, Manager of Emergency Communications Joe Sastre, Manager of Labor Relations/Risk Management Joyce Sauchuk, Groton Ambulance President George Law, Mystic River Ambulance President Chris Clarkin, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Assistant Town Clerk Sally Whitney.*

*Moderator Ambroise announced that all members were emailed information that was provided by Acting School Superintendent Mary Ann Butler in response to questions and concerns raised at the budget session on May 9, 2012.*

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

*Chairman Granatosky read the portion of the minutes of the meeting held on April 24, 2012 relating to the accounts on tonight's agenda. (Minutes are on file.)*  
*Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Hedrick and so voted unanimously.*

*The Moderator noted that the Town Council did reduce the figure for ambulance services. He recognized Groton Ambulance President George Law and Mystic River Ambulance President Chris Clarkin.*

**Account 10260 - Groton Ambulance**

*A MOTION for \$81,951 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Baril.*

*In response to Rep. Semeraro's inquiry, the Town Manager stated that the Town Council reduced Mystic River Ambulance's request by \$6,000. He clarified that the Town Council's intent was to reduce funding for an annual banquet for volunteers. The Council number also reflects the fact that the Town of Stonington is not funding their fair share to the ambulance service.*

*The vote on \$81,951 carried unanimously.*

**Account 10261 - Mystic River Ambulance**

*A MOTION for \$37,500 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Sebastian.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$31,500 was made by Rep. Semeraro, seconded by Rep. Kotowski. This figure is the Town Council's approved number.*

*Mr. Clarkin addressed the ongoing issues of funding from the Town of Stonington and the annual banquet for volunteers. He stated that the banquet cost is approximately \$6,000 each year.*

*Members discussed the ratio of volunteers from Groton and Stonington; the amount of funding provided by the Town of Stonington; and the annual fund raising effort.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$31,500 was defeated 14 in favor, 20 opposed. (In Favor: Reps. Adams, Aument, Cerf, DeMatto, Ferreira, Gardner, Heller, Hubbard, Kotowski, Loughlin, Massett, McDermott, Semeraro and Watrous.)*

*Members discussed the failure of the Stonington budget referendum and added that Stonington is proposing additional reductions in funding for both Mystic River Ambulance and the Mystic & Noank Library.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$34,500 was made by Rep. Streeter, seconded by Rep. Aument. This figure is a compromise between the Council figure and the committee figure.*

*Moderator Ambroise noted that a restoration of funding takes a two-thirds vote.*

*Members expressed their sentiments about Stonington's practice of not funding its fair share of the costs for shared services. Other items discussed were safety concerns; volunteer training expenses; recognition of volunteers; fund raising; response time; mutual aid; public safety; number of service calls; expected revenue for the current year; the number of service calls from Stone Ridge and Avalon in Stonington; paid personnel expenses; and comparison of the population and areas served by the two ambulance companies.*

*MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Ferreira, seconded by Rep. Granatosky.*



*The vote on moving the question carried 30 in favor, 4 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Aument, Cerf, Kotowski and Ambroise.)*

*The vote on the amendment of \$34,500 was defeated 15 in favor, 19 opposed. (In Favor: Adams, Aument, Barnhart, Cerf, Collins, DeMatto, Ferreira, Gardner, Kotowski, Loughlin, Massett, Prochaska, Streeter, Watrous and Ambroise.)*

*The vote on \$37,500 was defeated 17 in favor, 17 opposed. (In Favor: Reps. Baril, Bauer, Chase-Hildebrand, Collins, Conley, Driscoll, Ferreira, Granatoky, Harrell, Hedrick, Johnson, Merritt, Ryley, Sebastian, Steinfeld, Svencer and Williams.)*

*MOTION for \$36,000 was made by Rep. Granatoky, seconded by Rep. Conley. Rep. Granatoky stated that she is making this motion to have a figure on the floor.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$32,500 was made by Rep. Cerf, seconded by Rep. Kotowski. Rep. Cerf agrees with the Council's reasons for reducing this account. She stated that this figure is a slight restoration from the Council figure. (A two-thirds vote is required.)*

*MOTION TO AMEND TO \$33,750 was made by Rep. Adams, seconded by Rep. Ferreira. This figure restores to last year's approved funding level. (A two-thirds vote is required.)*

*The vote on the amendment of \$33,750 was defeated 20 in favor, 14 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Aument, Baril, Conley, Gardner, Harrell, Johnson, Kotowski, Loughlin, McDermott, Merritt, Semeraro, Streeter, Svencer and Williams.)*

*Responding to a question from Rep. DeMatto, Mr. Clarkin assured the members that the Council's figure would have no impact on emergency services or the annual banquet.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$32,500 was defeated 20 in favor, 14 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Baril, Bauer, Conley, Gardner, Harrell, Johnson, Kotowski, McDermott, Merritt, Sebastian, Steinfeld, Svencer, Williams and Ambroise.)*

*The vote on \$36,000 carried 23 in favor, 11 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Adams, Aument, Barnhart, Cerf, Gardner, Heller, Kotowski, Loughlin, McDermott, Semeraro and Streeter.)*

**Total for Account 1026 - Ambulance Services: \$117,951**

**Account 1014 - Administrative Services**

*A MOTION for \$2,795,447 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatoky, seconded by Rep. Driscoll.*

*The Manager noted that the Town Council figure reflects the reduction of \$41,200 from the salary adjustment line.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$2,790,202 was made by Rep. Kotowski, seconded by Rep. Aument. Rep. Kotowski feels that reductions to the budget need to be made and this figure is a decrease of only \$5,000.*

*Members discussed software maintenance fees and the reallocation of half of the salary for the Director of Administrative Services to this account. A Director of Parks & Recreation is expected to be hired by July 1, 2012.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$2,790,202 was defeated 14 in favor, 20 opposed. (In Favor: Reps. Adams, Aument, Cerf, Collins, Ferreira, Gardner, Harrell, Hedrick, Hubbard, Johnson, Kotowski, Loughlin, McDermott and Prochaska.)*

*The vote on \$2,795,447 carried 28 in favor, 6 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Aument, Cerf, Gardner, Harrell, Kotowski and Loughlin.)*

#### **Account 6050 - Computer Replacement Fund**

*A MOTION for \$146,765 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Svencer.*

*Members discussed the Town's computer replacement schedule, organization of the computer network and reducing the number of printers and computers.*

*Manager of Information Technology Brian Hancock explained that the Town's computer network is complex and includes a large number of computers and printers in various locations. He noted the reuse of 100 PC's as public access terminals at the library. He added that there has been a 25% reduction in the number of printers. Mr. Hancock noted that old computers are recycled at the transfer station after being stripped of any usable parts.*

*The Town Manager explained that this fund includes contributions from other Town functions as well as the fire districts. The fire districts are able to purchase necessary equipment at a better cost through the Town.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$126,500 was made by Rep. Gardner seconded by Rep. Johnson. Rep. Gardner would like to remove all individual desktop printers.*

*Mr. Hancock and the Town Manager explained the reasons for level funding this account each year to prevent large periodic increases for replacement equipment. In response to the Moderator, Mr. Hancock stated that it would cost approximately \$75 to \$85 per person to provide Town email addresses for RTM members.*

*Members discussed the increase in the cost of laptops installed in fire and safety vehicles.*

*MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. DeMatto, seconded by Rep. Harrell. The vote on moving the question carried 29 in favor, 5 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Aument, Baril, Gardner, Kotowski and Merritt.)*

*The vote on the amendment of \$126,500 was defeated 5 in favor, 29 opposed. (In Favor: Reps. Aument, Cerf, Ferreira, Gardner and Kotowski.)*

*The vote on \$146,765 carried 30 in favor, 4 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Aument, Cerf, Gardner and Kotowski.)*

#### **Capital Item - CAD/RMS MDT Implementation**

*A MOTION for \$40,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.*

*Manager of Emergency Communications Joe Sastre explained the details of this project. He noted that it will provide access for all fire district personnel to high risk situation plans and that this is extremely important for mutual aid between fire districts.*

*The vote on \$40,000 carried 32 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention. (Opposed: Rep. Gardner. Abstaining: Rep. Kotowski.)*

#### **Capital Item - Replacement Radio Control Console System**

*A MOTION for \$55,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Svencer.*

*Members discussed the necessity of replacing this system that is only 10 years old and the life expectancy of the newer technology that is being approved.*

*Discussion ensued about the design, engineering and scope of the plan.*

*The vote on \$55,000 carried 32 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention. (Opposed: Rep. Gardner. Abstaining: Rep. Kotowski.)*

#### **Account 1070 - Insurance & Claims**

*A MOTION for \$520,150 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Johnson.*

*The vote on \$520,150 carried 33 in favor, 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. Gardner.)*

#### **Account 1071 - Self Funded Plans**

*A MOTION for \$8,125,541 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.*

*Rep. Kotowski voiced her frustration with the inability of the RTM to reduce this account. She strongly suggested that the Town reduce Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) for employees and spouses, especially health insurance.*

*Manager of Labor Relations/Risk Management Joyce Sauchuk mentioned that reductions to OPEB are being achieved with current collective bargaining contracts. She cited the fact that new Steelworker employees hired after 2005 are no longer eligible for retiree insurance. She noted that non-union employees are the only group not restricted by collective bargaining and that the Town Council and Town Manager establish those benefits. She stated that all employees contribute to premium costs and that prescription co-pays are in line with other Towns. She added that insurance costs are down slightly due to utilization of new wellness initiatives.*

*The vote on \$8,125,541 carried 30 in favor, 2 opposed, 2 abstentions. (Opposed: Reps. Aument and Gardner. Abstaining: Reps. Cerf and Kotowski.)*

*The Moderator called a recess at 8:55 p.m. and the meeting resumed at 9:11 p.m. Reps. Ferreira and Sebastian left during the recess; 32 members remained.*

#### **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

*Chairman Collins read the minutes of the meetings held on April 23 and April 25, 2012. (Minutes are on file.)*

*Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Hedrick and so voted unanimously.*

#### **Account 1035 - Public Works**

*A MOTION for \$6,251,351 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Baril.*

*Public Works Director Gary Schneider answered questions about a new maintenance worker and Office Assistant II. He stated that two vacant positions are being filled by employees in lower wage classifications.*

*The vote on \$6,251,351 carried 28 in favor, 4 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Aument, Cerf, Gardner and Kotowski.)*

#### **Account 2020 - Sewer Operating Fund**

*A MOTION for \$5,927,671 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Steinfeld.*

*Members discussed the response to complaints of sewer smells and incidents of sewer spills.*

*Mr. Schneider reviewed the Town's response policy, maintenance of sewer pump stations and sewer line inspection. He noted that there are large masses of decomposing material in the water and on the rocks near the bridge crossing into Groton Long Point and that Esker Point Beach was recently cleared of a massive amount of seaweed. He verified that Groton does not have a mandatory ordinance for tying into available sewers. He advised individuals to report any suspicious discharge to the Ledge Light Health District.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$5,795,276 was made by Rep. Kotowski, seconded by Gardner. This figure represents the adjusted FYE2012 figure; it would prevent any increase in fees.*

*Chairman Collins explained the financing plan for this fund.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$5,795,276 was defeated 8 in favor, 24 opposed. (In Favor: Reps. Adams, Aument, Cerf, Gardner, Johnson, Kotowski, Loughlin and McDermott.)*

*Members discussed the inclusion of OPEB and the 2% salary adjustment.*

*Mr. Schneider commented on the large equipment component at the Water Pollution Control Facility that needs to be replaced.*

*Rep. Harrell left at this time; 31 members remained.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$5,827,671 was made by Rep. Kotowski, seconded by Rep. Aument. Rep. Kotowski stated that this figure reduces the increase in this account.*

*Members discussed the Sewer Operating Fund in comparison to other towns in the region; sewer use fees; OPEB costs; and the fact that a reduction in this fund does not affect taxes.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$5,827,671 was defeated 5 in favor, 26 opposed. (In Favor: Reps. Aument, Cerf, Gardner, Kotowski and McDermott.)*

*The vote on \$5,927,671 carried 27 in favor, 4 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Aument, Cerf, Gardner and Kotowski.)*

#### **Account 2030 - Solid Waste Fund**

*A MOTION for \$2,662,750 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.*

*The vote on \$2,662,750 carried 27 in favor, 4 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. Aument, Cerf, Gardner and Kotowski.)*

#### **Account 6040 - Fleet Reserve Fund**

*A MOTION for \$1,450,835 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Massett.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$1,396,065 was made by Rep. Kotowski, seconded by Rep. Massett. Rep. Kotowski stated that this figure removes funding for the refurbishment and replacement of golf course vehicles. She feels that the golf course should be self-funded.*

*The Town Manager explained that this fund operates in a manner similar to the computer replacement fund. He clarified that only the golf course and sewer department have been making 100% of their annual contributions. He noted that the contributions of other departments have been significantly reduced by actions of the Council or RTM in past budget years.*

*Members discussed reducing future contributions, creation of the vehicle replacement schedule,*

*delaying purchases, and impact on the General Fund.*

*It was suggested that the Town Manager provide a detailed explanation of all the self-funded accounts at next year's budget orientation in order to better educate members.*

*MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Baril. The vote on moving the question carried 28 in favor, 3 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Aument, Gardner and Kotowski.)*

*The vote on the amendment of \$1,396,065 was defeated 3 in favor, 28 opposed. (In Favor: Reps. Aument, Gardner and Kotowski.)*

*The vote on \$1,450,835 carried 29 in favor, 2 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Gardner and Kotowski.)*

#### **Capital Item - Pavement Management Program**

*A MOTION for \$500,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Granatosky.*

*Chairman Collins noted that the Town Council is discussing a possible bonding referendum for a multi-year long-term pavement management program.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$0 was made by Rep. Aument, seconded by Rep. Kotowski. Rep. Aument agrees with the concept of a bond referendum for a long-term pavement management program that will allow the taxpayers to approve a complete project.*

*Members discussed the increased costs for road maintenance when paving is deferred; the possible bonding referendum and timeline; inclusion of the City and Groton Long Point in the referendum; and who would perform the work.*

*The Manager stated that if any roads are to be paved during FYE2013, the funding request must be approved.*

*MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. DeMatto, seconded by Rep. Massett. The vote to move the question carried 27 in favor, 4 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Aument, Gardner, Kotowski and Ambroise.)*

*The vote on the amendment of \$0 was defeated 5 in favor, 26 opposed. (In Favor: Reps. Aument, Cerf, Gardner, Kotowski and McDermott.)*

*The vote on \$500,000 carried 27 in favor, 3 opposed, 1 abstention. (Opposed: Reps. Aument, Gardner and Kotowski. Abstaining: Rep. McDermott.)*

#### **Capital Item - Replacement of Defective Roadside Barrier Systems**

*A MOTION for \$40,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. DeMatto. The Chairman noted that the Council figure was \$0.*

*Rep. Ryley left at this time; 30 members remained.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$0 was made by Rep. Gardner, seconded by Rep. Kotowski.*

*POINT OF ORDER was raised by Rep. Steinfeld concerning decorum during debate in regard to Rep. Gardner's comments about the ideas of the body.*

*Moderator Ambroise directed Rep. Gardner to be cautious with his remarks and to observe to RTM Rule 8.5.2.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$0 carried 17 in favor, 13 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Bauer, Conley, DeMatto, Driscoll, Granatosky, Hedrick, Heller, Loughlin, Massett, Merritt, Steinfeld, Svencer, Williams.)*

**Capital Item - Improvement to Riverview Avenue**

*A MOTION for \$90,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Streeter.*

*Rep. Hedrick left at this time; 29 members remained.*

*Members discussed the type of guard rails, safety issues, reducing the Town's liability, and delaying the project.*

*The vote on \$90,000 carried 27 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention. (Opposed: Rep. Kotowski. Abstaining: Rep. Adams.)*

**Capital Item - Local Drainage Improvements/New Installations**

*A MOTION for \$85,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Svencer and so voted unanimously.*

**Capital Item - New Sidewalk Construction - Route 1 Mystic**

*A MOTION for \$60,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Svencer.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$0 was made by Rep. Aument, seconded by Rep. Gardner. Rep. Aument feels that this project could be deferred, since it is not necessary.*

*Members discussed the safety issues affecting the people who walk along the road in this area.*

*The Manager clarified that Local Capital Improvement Funds (LoCIP) are money received from the State and can be used for specific projects like this one. He noted that funds may be retained for several years and that if this project is not approved, the funds would be designated for a qualifying project next year.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$0 was defeated 3 in favor, 26 opposed. (In Favor: Reps. Aument, Gardner and Kotowski.)*

*The vote on \$60,000 carried 26 in favor, 3 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Aument, Gardner and Kotowski.)*

**Capital Item - New Sidewalk Construction - Thomas Road**

*A MOTION for \$176,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Massett.*

*Members discussed the price increases since the project's inception due to years of reductions made to this CIP account; design work; the impact of inland and tidal wetlands; additional requirements due to a water main location; LoCIP funding; and whether this sidewalk will connect to existing walkways.*

*Concerns raised were the number of fatalities; pedestrian usage; the need to address safety and liability issues; and the need to start completing sidewalks in the community.*

*The vote on \$176,000 carried 27 in favor, 2 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Gardner and Kotowski.)*

**Capital Item - Groton Public Library**

*A MOTION for \$35,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep.*

*Johnson.*

*Mr. Schneider spoke about the necessity to eliminate tripping hazards in the exterior walkways and decorative pavers. He noted that painting is needed and that the carpets and blinds date back to 1977.*

*Rep. Williams left at this time; 28 members remained.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$20,000 was made by Rep. Gardner, seconded by Rep. Aument. Rep. Gardner suggests eliminating the tripping hazards, replacing necessary blinds and painting. The replacement of carpet can be deferred.*

*Members discussed the cost of deferring maintenance.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$20,000 was defeated 12 in favor, 16 opposed. (In Favor: Reps. Adams, Aument, Barnhart, Cerf, Conley, Gardner, Granatosky, Heller, Johnson, Kotowski, McDermott and Ambroise.)*

*The vote on \$35,000 carried 22 in favor, 6 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Aument, Barnhart, Gardner, Johnson, Kotowski and Ambroise.)*

**Capital Item - Town Hall Annex Complex - Roads & Streets**

*A MOTION for \$315,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Semeraro.*

*Members discussed the specifications, location and necessity of the roof repairs.*

*In response, Mr. Schneider explained why this building is being refitted to survive a category three hurricane. He stated that this facility is a necessary part of the Town's disaster preparedness and provides regional services.*

*The vote on \$315,000 carried 27 in favor 1 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. Kotowski.)*

**Capital Item - Jabez Smith House**

*A MOTION for \$13,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Svencer.*

*The Town Manager noted that these funds are due to expire June 30, 2012 and need to be reauthorized. He added that this will provide for interior painting which has not been done since the 1980's.*

*The vote on \$13,000 carried 27 in favor, 1 opposed. (Rep. Kotowski.)*

**Capital Item - Golf Course Facilities-Maintenance Building**

*A MOTION for \$0 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Johnson and so voted unanimously.*

**Capital Item - Golf Course Facilities-Clubhouse**

*A MOTION for \$242,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Svencer.*

*It was noted that these are LoCIP funds.*

*The vote on \$242,000 carried 26 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention. (Opposed: Rep. Gardner. Abstaining: Rep. Kotowski.)*

**Capital Item - Town Hall Annex-Annex**

*A MOTION for \$65,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Adams.*

*Members discussed the use of LoCIP funds, the project timeline, and reasons for the increase in the cost of the project.*

*The vote on \$65,000 carried 27 in favor, 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. Kotowski.)*

#### **Capital Item - Pump Stations**

*A MOTION for \$360,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.*

*Mr. Schneider explained that the repair and maintenance of the pump stations are necessary and cited State regulations.*

*The vote on \$360,000 carried 26 in favor, 2 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Cerf and Kotowski.)*

#### **Capital Item - Treatment Facility**

*A MOTION for \$220,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Svencer.*

*Mr. Schneider verified that these are essential pumps that move the Water Pollution Control Facility effluent five miles to the discharge point in the Thames River.*

*The vote on \$220,000 carried 26 in favor, 2 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Cerf and Kotowski.)*

*At 11:50 p.m., the Moderator recessed the meeting until May 16, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.*

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#### **Budget Session - Wednesday, May 16, 2012**

*Moderator Jean-Claude Ambroise called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.*

*35 members were present, and a quorum was declared. (Reps. Aument, Cerf, Loughlin, McDermott and Streeter arrived later in the meeting.)*

*The Moderator reported that Reps. Chase-Hildebrand, DeMatto, Harrell and Luck notified the Town Clerk of their absence and that Reps. Aument and Streeter will be late.*

*Members Present: Moderator Ambroise, Rep. Adams, Rep. Aument, Rep. Baril, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Cerf, Rep. Collins, Rep. Conley, Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. Driscoll, Rep. Ferreira, Rep. Gardner, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Hatcher, Rep. Hedrick, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Johnson, Rep. Kotowski, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Massett, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Prochaska, Rep. Ryley, Rep. Semeraro, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Svencer, Rep. Swindell, Rep. Watrous and Rep. Williams*

*Members Absent: Rep. Chase-Hildebrand, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Heller, Rep. Luck and Rep. Miller*

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Finance Director Sal Pandolfo, Regional Probate Judge Nicholas Kepple, Library Director Betty Anne Reiter and Library Trustees, Bill Memorial Library Director Hail Keeler and Library Trustees, Mystic & Noank Library Director Lois Hiller and Library Trustees, Ledge Light Health District Supervisor Jennifer Muggeo, Visiting Nurses Association CEO Mary Lenzini, United Community Family Services Chief Finance Officer Joanne Smart, Eastern Connecticut Symphony representative Julie Maisch, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Assistant Town Clerk Sally Whitney.*

#### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES COMMITTEE**

*Chairman Ferreira read the minutes of the meetings held on April 12, 2012 and April 23, 2012. (Minutes are on file.)*

*Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Ferreira, seconded by Rep. Hedrick and so voted unanimously.*



**Account 10070 - SE CT Council of Governments (SCCOG)**

*A MOTION for \$16,349 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Ferreira, seconded by Rep. Johnson.*

*The vote on \$16,349 carried 28 in favor, 2 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Gardner and Kotowski.)*

**Account 10071 - SE CT Enterprise Region (SECTER)**

*A MOTION for \$13,974 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Ferreira, seconded by Rep. Johnson.*

*The vote on \$13,974 carried 28 in favor, 2 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Gardner and Kotowski.)*

**Account 10072 - SE Area Transit (SEAT)**

*A MOTION for \$87,369 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Ferreira, seconded by Rep. Adams.*

*Reps. Aument and Streeter arrived at this time; 33 members were present.*

*Members inquired about regional ridership and the increase to this account.*

*The Town Manager noted that there is no SEAT staff present.*

*Rep. Merritt noted that he serves as a representative to the regional board, but does not have the ridership figures.*

*Rep. Collins noted that much of the information in question is in the request for funding which is part of the RTM budget information packet.*

*Rep. Cerf arrived at this time; 33 members were present.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$84,009 was made by Rep. Pasqualini, seconded by Rep. Kotowski. Rep. Pasqualini's rationale is that the number of passengers from each town using this service should be known before approving an increase in funding.*

*Rep. Loughlin arrived at this time; 34 members were present.*

*Members discussed increased fuel costs; ridership of Groton residents; the budget information that was provided; the formula for contributions from the nine participating towns; service hours; service areas; bus fees; conservation and ecological impact on the region; promotion of growth and usage of regional transportation systems.*

*It was noted that passenger fares are \$1.45 and that 11,940 service hours are provided to Groton, which calculates to a \$7.00 per hour service cost.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$84,009 was defeated 3 in favor, 30 opposed, 1 abstention. (In Favor: Reps. Aument, Deane-Shinbrot and Pasqualini. Abstaining: Rep. Gardner.)*

*Rep. McDermott arrived at this time; 35 members were present.*

*The vote on \$87,369 carried 33 in favor, 2 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Aument and Pasqualini.)*

**Account 10073 - SE CT Probate Court**

*A MOTION for \$13,433 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Ferreira, seconded by Rep. Newsome.*

*Moderator Ambroise recognized Regional Probate Judge Nick Kepple.*

*The vote on \$13,433 carried unanimously.*

**Total for Account 1007 - Regional Agencies: \$131,125**

**Account 10540 - Ledge Light Health District**

*A MOTION for \$274,857 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Ferreira, seconded by Rep. Svencer.*

*Rep. Swindell disclosed that he provides contractual consulting services for Ledge Light Health District and will recuse himself on this account.*

*Rep. Massett disclosed that she is a member of the Ledge Light Health District Board of Directors.*

*In response to Rep. Gardner, Moderator Ambroise clarified that per Section 3.5.3 of the Town Charter, there is no conflict of interest for Rep. Massett. He will not recognize Rep. Gardner's request that Rep. Massett should recuse herself on this account. He noted that RTM Rule 8.1 also addresses this issue.*

*Rep. Cerf raised the issue of sewer odors affecting areas near the Groton Long Point pump station.*

*The Town Manager stated that Public Works did respond to the previous complaints and does not believe that this is a sewer problem.*

*Ledge Light Health District Supervisor Jennifer Muggeo stated that possible environmental contamination issues should be reported to Ledge Light Health District for investigation.*

*Rep. Sebastian stated that he has information on the source of the odor.*

*POINT OF ORDER was raised that discussion should relate only to the budget request of Ledge Light Health District.*

*Moderator Ambroise recognized the Point of Order and requested that Rep. Sebastian yield the floor unless he is addressing the body with information on the budget.*

*The vote on \$274,857 carried 34 in favor, 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. Swindell.)*

**Account 10541 - VNA (School Health)**

*A MOTION for \$1,120,278 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Ferreira, seconded by Rep. Johnson.*

*The increase in this account is attributable to staff changes.*

*The vote on \$1,120,278 carried 33 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention. (Opposed: Rep. Gardner. Abstaining: Rep. Baril.)*

**Account 10542 - VNA (Health Promo)**

*A MOTION for \$68,820 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Ferreira, seconded by Rep. Svencer, and so voted unanimously.*

**Account 10544 - Housing Authority**

*A MOTION for \$57,954 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Ferreira, seconded by Rep. Johnson.*

*The Town Manager noted that since sewer use fees were not raised, there is no change in this*

item.

*The vote on \$57,954 carried 34 in favor, 1 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. Pasqualini.)*

**Account 10545 - Service Agencies**

*A MOTION for \$56,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Ferreira, seconded by Rep. Johnson.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$52,500 was made by Rep. Kotowski, seconded by Rep. Johnson. Rep. Kotowski's rationale is that this is last year's figure and that other revenue sources are available to some of the agencies funded by this account.*

*Members discussed the increased usage of the two homeless hospitality centers; providing safe harbor for the homeless; and the absence of funding for Lighthouse Voc-Ed Center.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$52,500 was defeated 5 in favor, 30 opposed. (In Favor: Reps. Deane-Shinbrot, Gardner, Johnson, Kotowski and Pasqualini.)*

*The Vote on \$56,000 carried 32 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstention. (Opposed: Reps. Kotowski and Pasqualini. Abstaining: Rep. Gardner.)*

**Account 10546 - Cultural Agencies**

*A MOTION for \$ 0 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Ferreira, seconded by Rep. Johnson.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$3,800 was made by Rep. Sebastian, seconded by Rep. Cerf.*

*The Manager noted that an amended figure can not exceed the higher of the Town Manager's proposed figure or the Town Council's approved figure.*

*Moderator Ambroise ruled that the figure of \$3,800 is an invalid motion.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$1,000 was made by Rep. Baril, seconded by Rep. Collins.*

*Rep. Swindell disclosed that he is member of the Friends of the Eastern Connecticut Symphony. He commented that there is an ongoing and active fund raising campaign which supplements revenues from ticket sales.*

*Members discussed the fact that that the funds would be used only for the symphony; contributing to maintain a cultural asset to the community; preserving exposure to art and culture for all ages.*

*Rep. Steinfeld yielded the floor to Julie Maisch who spoke on behalf of the Eastern Connecticut Symphony. She strongly urged the RTM to support the figure of \$1,000. She noted that Groton has the highest attendance at the Symphony among the towns in the region and emphasized the importance of music for all ages. This contribution assists with the annual young people's concert.*

*The Moderator noted that restoration of funds requires a two-thirds vote.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$1,000 carried 30 in favor, 4 opposed, 1 abstention. (Opposed: Reps. Aument, Deane-Shinbrot, Ferreira and Gardner. Abstaining: Rep. Adams.)*

**Account 10547 - Marine Sewage Disposal**

*A MOTION for \$19,980 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Ferreira, seconded by Rep. Johnson.*

*Members discussed the service area; the non-profit agency which provides the pump-out service; State funding; contributions and fundraising. It was noted that the goal of this service is to help clean up and maintain area waterways.*

*The vote on \$19,980 carried 34 in favor, 1 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. Granatosky.)*

**Total for Account 1054 - Health/Service/Cultural Agencies: \$1,598,889**

**Account 1063 - Groton Public Library**

*A MOTION for \$1,689,452 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Ferreira, seconded by Rep. Johnson and so voted unanimously.*

**Account 3310 - Connecticut Special Revenue Fund**

*A MOTION for \$50,322 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Ferreira, seconded by Rep. Johnson.*

*Library Director Betty Anne Reiter explained the operation, function, funding and restrictions of this account. She noted that this is a special revenue fund that may be used only for library expenses, and that the RTM is authorizing the use of this money.*

*The vote on \$50,322 carried unanimously.*

**Account 10650 - Mystic & Noank Library**

*A MOTION for \$173,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Ferreira, seconded by Rep. Svencer.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$188,000 was made by Rep. Sebastian, seconded by Rep. Newsome. Rep. Sebastian's rationale is that libraries provide services that are critical to everyone in the community.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$20,000 was made by Rep. Massett, seconded by Rep. Gardner. Rep. Massett's rationale is that funding of the Mystic & Noank and Bill Memorial Libraries should be equitable.*

*Members discussed patronage; activities; services; accessibility; the endowment; Stonington's failure to contribute its fair share; and the impact on hours of operation if the second amended figure is approved.*

*Mystic & Noank Library Director Lois Hiller stated that only 20% of the annual budget is funded by the endowment. She reported on the continuing struggle to persuade the Town of Stonington to contribute an equitable amount. She mentioned that the Library has a very active Board of Trustees and dedicated volunteers.*

*The Moderator clarified that the Town Council figure is \$173,000 and that the first amended figure would be a restoration to the Manager's number and would require a two-thirds vote.*

*Chairman Ferreira confirmed that the \$173,000 figure is equivalent to last year's figure and that services would be cut if a reduced amount is approved.*

*Many members expressed strong opinions in opposition to such a large, unforeseen reduction. Members discussed the issue of equitable funding of services shared by Groton and Stonington, noting that this account is similar to the Mystic River Ambulance account. It was also noted that the library should be allowed time to develop a contingency plan and that an unforeseen decrease in funding could destroy the library's viability. It was noted that this building is a historic landmark.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$20,000 was defeated 4 in favor, 31 opposed. (In Favor: Reps. Gardner, Kotowski, Massett and Streeter.)*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$70,000 was made by Rep. Barnhart, seconded by Rep. Kotowski. Rep. Barnhart pointed out that the Stonington Board of Finance historically reduces funding for the Mystic & Noank Library when their referendum fails; the first referendum has been defeated this year.*

*Ms. Hiller commented that the Stonington Board of Finance is not recommending a further reduction for the second referendum and added that Groton's funding is used for personnel costs.*

*Discussion followed about the hours of operation.*

*MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Aument, seconded by Rep. Bauer. The vote to move the question carried 29 in favor, 6 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Barnhart, Gardner, Kotowski, Newsome, Swindell and Ambroise.)*

*The vote on \$70,000 was defeated 3 in favor, 32 opposed. (In Favor: Reps. Barnhart, Gardner and Kotowski.)*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$110,000 was made by Rep. Kotowski, seconded by Rep. Barnhart. This figure reflects closing the library two days a week.*

*Discussion ensued on hours of operation; the fact that the Mystic & Noank and Bill Memorial are satellite libraries for Groton Public; the composition of the Board of Trustees; comparison of each Town's circulation; and reduction in Connecticut reimbursement from the State.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$110,000 was defeated 9 in favor, 26 opposed. (In Favor: Reps. Conley, Deane-Shinbrot, Gardner, Granatosky, Hatcher, Hedrick, Johnson, Kotowski, and Massett.)*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$146,552 was made by Rep. Kotowski, seconded by Rep. Johnson. Rep. Kotowski explained that the library did cut hours when a previous reduction was approved and then restored hours after a successful fund raising campaign.*

*Rep. Massett stated that she will abstain from voting, since she feels that the composition of the Board of Directors does not fairly represent the taxpayers.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$146,552 was defeated 15 in favor, 19 opposed, 1 abstention. (In favor: Reps. Adams, Aument, Barnhart, Conley, Deane-Shinbrot, Gardner, Granatosky, Hatcher, Hedrick, Johnson, Kotowski, Pasqualini, Prochaska, Streeter and Watrous. Abstaining: Rep. Massett.)*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$170,000 was made by Rep. Pasqualini, seconded by Rep. Kotowski. Rep. Pasqualini stated this is the Town Council figure.*

*Moderator Ambroise announced that the correct figure approved by the Town Council is \$173,000. He did not recognize a Point of Order that the amendment is a frivolous motion.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$170,000 carried 22 in favor, 12 opposed, 1 abstention. (Opposed: Reps. Baril, Barnhart, Bauer, Cerf, Hubbard, Loughlin, Merritt, Ryley, Sebastian, Semeraro, Williams and Ambroise. Abstaining: Rep. Massett.)*

**2012-0158**

#### **Services Shared Between Towns**

#### **SERVICES SHARED BETWEEN TOWNS**

**This matter was Referred to the RTM Community Development & Services Committee.**

*Rep. Swindell requested a referral to investigate legislative options that would enforce equitable funding for services shared by adjacent Towns. He noted that current State Statute does not allow services to be denied to the Town of Stonington.*

**Account 10651 - Bill Memorial Library**

*A MOTION for \$20,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Ferreira, seconded by Rep. Barnhart.*

*The Moderator recognized Bill Memorial Library Director Hali Keeler.*

*In response to Rep. Cerf, Ms. Keeler noted that two Mystic residents and nine City residents sit on the Board of Trustees. She announced that the Bill Memorial Library is the recipient of the 2012 Award for Excellence in Public Library Service given by the Connecticut State Library and Connecticut Library Association.*

*The vote on \$20,000 carried unanimously.*

**Total for Account 1065 - Other Libraries: \$190,000**

*At 9:15 p.m., the Moderator recessed the meeting until May 21, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Budget Session - Monday, May 21, 2012**

*Moderator Jean-Claude Ambroise called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.*

*31 members were present, and a quorum was declared.*

*The Moderator reported that Reps. Gardner, Hedrick, Johnson, Luck, Miller and Prochaska notified the Town Clerk of their absence.*

*Members Present: Moderator Ambroise, Reps. Adams, Aument, Baril, Barnhart, Bauer, Cerf, Chase-Hildebrand, Collins, Conley, Deane-Shinbrot, DeMatto, Driscoll, Ferreira, Granatosky, Hatcher, Kotowski, Loughlin, Massett, McDermott, Merritt, Pasqualini, Ryley, Sebastian, Semeraro, Steinfeld, Streeter, Svencer, Swindell, Watrous and Williams.*

*Members Absent: Reps. Gardner, Harrell, Hedrick, Hubbard, Johnson, Luck, Miller, Newsome and Prochaska.*

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Finance Director Sal Pandolfo, Planning & Development Director Michael Murphy, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Assistant Town Clerk Sally Whitney.*

*Moderator Ambroise announced that Seventh District Rep. Jonathan Heller has resigned effective May 17, 2012.*

*Republican Floor Leader Jackie Massett requested a caucus at 7:02 p.m.*

*The meeting resumed at 7:24 p.m.*

**Capital Item - Open Space Acquisition & Development**

*A MOTION for \$25,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Ferreira, seconded by Rep. Steinfeld.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$100,000 was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Collins. This figure is the Town Council's approved number.*

*Rep. Granatosky read highlights from a letter from former RTM Rep. Syma Ebbin regarding open space. A copy of the letter was emailed to the members. Ms. Ebbin urged the RTM to approve the Town Council's figure, noting that the funding will enable the purchase of the Spicer property. This property will preserve sensitive ecological habitats and wetlands, provide new outdoor recreational space, and improve the community.*

*Rep. Swindell disclosed that he is a member of the Marine Science Magnet School Building Committee.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$0 was made by Rep. Swindell, seconded by Rep. Kotowski. Rep. Swindell's rationale is that other monies may be available and that further discussions should be held with Project LEARN. He objects to the use of Town funds for this purchase and would like assurance that the property will be available as an outdoor classroom space if it is acquired.*

*The Town Manager spoke about the purchase agreement for the Spicer Property, the existing fund balance, and the annual contribution to this account. In response to Rep. Swindell, he noted that Project LEARN has not officially pursued the purchase of the Spicer property. He explained that State surplus funds from the construction of the Marine Science Magnet School have not yet been identified and may not be available for the purchase of the Spicer property. He stated that he has kept Project LEARN informed. He verified that the balance of this year's appropriation would remain in the account if it is not used to purchase the Spicer property.*

*Members discussed the importance of open space acquisition; economic benefits to the community; unique attributes of the Spicer property; and possible uses for the property, including outdoor classroom space. Several representatives feel that this is an unnecessary expenditure which will increase the burden on taxpayers.*

*Discussion ensued on the minimum amount of money needed to purchase the Spicer property; the account balance necessary to maintain the Open Space Fund; perceptions about the quality of life; use of the property; and annual maintenance costs.*

*The Town Manager explained the Town Council's figure. He noted that negotiations for the purchase of the Spicer property progressed during the development of the proposed budget and that the Council approved additional funds so that negotiations could proceed. The Manager added that a resolution authorizing the purchase would have to be approved by both the Council and the RTM.*

*Rep. Swindell stated that he is in favor of acquisition of the Spicer property, but has a problem with the funding by taxpayers. He acknowledged that he would like to withdraw the amendment of \$0.*

*Rep. Kotowski, who seconded the motion, preferred that the motion remain on the floor.*

*Members discussed the increase to residential property values near open space and the percentage of State, City and Town open space in the community.*

*MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Semeraro, seconded by Rep. Pasqualini. The vote to move the question carried 23 in favor, 8 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Aument, Cerf, DeMatto, Granatosky, Kotowski, Loughlin, Swindell and Ambroise.)*

*The vote on the amendment of \$0 was defeated 1 in favor, 30 opposed. (In Favor: Rep. Kotowski.)*

*Discussion continued on the benefits of purchasing open space in a difficult economy; community use; creation of walking and bike paths; and parking at the adjacent Birch Plain Creek open space.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$75,000 was made by Rep. Aument, seconded by Rep. Barnhart. Rep. Aument stated that this figure moves the process forward, supports the purchase, and prompts the Town to attempt to negotiate a lower price to save additional money.*

*Members continued to discuss the value of open space; the appraised value of the Spicer property; the purchase price; and details of the purchase.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$75,000 carried 27 in favor, 4 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Baril, Bauer, Kotowski and Loughlin.)*

#### **Capital Item - Mystic Education Center**

*A MOTION for \$50,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Ferreira, seconded by Rep. Svencer.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$25,000 was made by Rep. Kotowski, seconded by Rep. Aument. This is the number approved by the Town Council.*

*Members discussed what the money would be used for.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$25,000 carried 29 in favor, 2 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Baril and Bauer.)*

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

*Chairman Granatosky read the portion of the minutes of the meeting held on April 24, 2012, pertaining to the accounts on tonight's agenda. (Minutes are on file.)*

*Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Driscoll and so voted unanimously.*

*The Moderator called for a recess at 8:30 p.m. The meeting resumed at 8:45 p.m.*

*Rep. Sebastian left during the recess; 30 members remained.*

#### **Account 1092 - Fire Districts PILOT**

*A MOTION for \$246,012 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.*

*The vote on \$246,012 carried 28 in favor, 2 non-voting. (Non-voting: Reps. Hatcher and Pasqualini.)*

#### **Account 1077 - Contributions to Other Funds**

*A MOTION for \$200,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Driscoll.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$0 was made by Rep. Cerf, seconded by Rep. Kotowski. Rep. Cerf objects to the procedural process for this account.*

*The Manager explained that the reason for the increase in this account is to replenish the Fleet Fund that has been significantly reduced by the RTM for a number of years. He noted that he chose not to adjust the contribution for each individual function.*

*Members discussed the practicality, purpose and desirability of maintaining a balance adequate to follow the equipment replacement schedule. Members expressed both support of and opposition to these contributions.*

*The Manager explained that the purpose of the Fleet Fund is to smooth out yearly fluctuations in the individual functions. He noted that the Golf Course and Water Pollution Control Authority have funded 100% of their contributions. He stated that this supplemental infusion of money is intended for General Fund fleet purchases.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$100,000 was made by Rep. Semeraro, seconded by Rep. Aument. This figure represents a reduction to this year's contribution to the Fleet Fund.*



*Discussion continued on increased repair and maintenance costs for older vehicles; extended vehicle replacement schedule; continuation of the Fleet Fund; backlog of vehicle purchases; employee down time due to equipment failure; and future fluctuations in the annual budget.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$100,000 was defeated 11 in favor, 19 opposed. (In Favor: Reps. Aument, Cerf, Conley, Deane-Shinbrot, Ferreira, Hatcher, Kotowski, McDermott, Semeraro, Swindell and Williams.)*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$150,000 was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Hatcher. Rep. Conley's goal is to achieve a compromise.*

*Discussion continued on items previously mentioned.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$150,000 was defeated 13 in favor, 17 opposed. (In Favor: Reps. Aument, Cerf, Conley, Deane-Shinbrot, Ferreira, Hatcher, Kotowski, McDermott, Pasqualini, Semeraro, Swindell, Watrous and Williams.)*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$175,000 was made by Rep. Aument, seconded by Rep. Kotowski. This figure represents a compromise between the committee figure of \$200,000 and the last amended figure of \$150,000.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$175,000 was defeated 12 in favor, 18 opposed. (In Favor: Reps. Aument, Cerf, Conley, Deane-Shinbrot, Ferreira, Hatcher, Kotowski, McDermott, Semeraro, Swindell, Watrous and Williams.)*

*The vote on the amendment of \$0 was defeated 3 in favor, 27 opposed. (In Favor: Reps. Cerf, Kotowski and Semeraro.)*

*The vote on \$200,000 carried 21 in favor, 9 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Aument, Cerf, Conley, Deane-Shinbrot, Hatcher, Kotowski, McDermott, Semeraro, Swindell.)*

#### **Account 1076 - Debt Service**

*A MOTION for \$4,583,440 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. DeMatto and so voted unanimously.*

#### **Account 2060 - Mumford Cove**

*A MOTION for \$21,057 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. DeMatto and so voted unanimously.*

#### **Account 4010 - Groton Sewer District**

*A MOTION for \$1,162,592 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. DeMatto and so voted unanimously.*

#### **Account 1074 - Contingency**

*A MOTION for \$500,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Svencer.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$350,000 was made by Rep. Pasqualini, seconded by Rep. Aument. Rep. Pasqualini's rationale is to reduce funds in Contingency and increase the Town's leverage in contract negotiations. He does not want funds for wage increases available in Contingency. He stated that if 2% wage increases are approved, but funds are not available, layoffs would be an option.*

*The Moderator noted that any Contingency transfer above \$10,000 would need Town Council and RTM approval.*

Members discussed the Town Council's addition of \$150,000 to the Manager's proposed figure of \$350,000; the 2% salary adjustment; and storm reimbursement to Groton Long Point. It was noted that non-union wage increases, collective bargaining agreements, and storm reimbursement could deplete the Contingency account to a level of \$40,000. Members felt that this may not be a sufficient rainy day fund if a severe winter were to occur next year. Several members agreed that it is a bad business practice to retain funds in Contingency while union negotiations are open. Discussion ensued about layoffs and costs for mediation and arbitration.

The vote on the amendment of \$350,000 was defeated 12 in favor, 18 opposed. (In Favor: Reps. Adams, Aument, Cerf, Deane-Shinbrot, Ferreira, Hatcher, Kotowski, McDermott, Pasqualini, Semeraro, Swindell and Williams.)

MOTION TO AMEND to \$400,000 was made by Rep. Aument, seconded by Rep. Adams. Rep. Aument's rationale is to move a compromise figure.

Concerns were raised about the inclusion of wage increases before collective bargaining agreements are final and annual sick and vacation pay out. Some members expressed the opinion that spending is out of control and services need to be reduced and added that if funds are not available, layoffs would be the result.

The Town Manager addressed these concerns and noted that unused Contingency money returns to the General Fund. He addressed the issue of costs for mediation and arbitration and confirmed that changes in health and other benefits are being made to achieve reductions in the long term.

The vote on the amendment of \$400,000 was defeated 11 in favor, 18 opposed, 1 abstention. (In Favor: Reps. Adams, Aument, Chase-Hildebrand, Deane-Shinbrot, Ferreira, Hatcher, Kotowski, McDermott, Pasqualini, Semeraro, Swindell. Abstaining: Rep. Williams.)

MOTION TO AMEND to \$450,000 was made by Rep. Swindell, seconded by Rep. Kotowski. Rep. Swindell stated that this figure is an estimate and should be sufficient to cover expenses.

The vote on the amendment of \$450,000 carried 17 in favor, 12 opposed, 1 abstention. (Opposed: Reps. Baril, Bauer, Chase-Hildebrand, Collins, Conley, Driscoll, Granatosky, Merritt, Steinfeld, Streeter, Svencer and Watrous. Abstaining: Rep. Williams.)

#### **Account 5010 - Capital Reserve Fund**

A MOTION for \$3,822,230 was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.

Finance Director Sal Pandolfo explained the purpose and operation of this account as well as the formula used to determine the correct figure.

The vote on \$3,822,230 carried 29 in favor, 1 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. Aument.)

#### **Account 1075 - Capital Reserve (contribution)**

A MOTION for \$3,650,000 was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Svencer.

The Manager explained that this is the contribution from the General Fund into the Capital Reserve. He listed the reductions to the FYE2013 CIP accounts that the RTM approved during the budget sessions.

The vote on \$3,650,000 carried unanimously.

Republican Floor Leader Jackie Massett thanked Moderator Jean-Claude Ambroise for leading the body through this year's annual budget meeting. A round of applause from the members followed.

*Rep. Swindell stated that he has received many comments from the viewing public about the outstanding job the Moderator has done leading the RTM through this democratic process.*

*In response to Rep. Kotowski's request for a standing agenda item dealing with the budget, the Moderator noted that discussion regarding the budget process can be conducted under Other Business at any regular RTM meeting.*

#### **H. ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion to adjourn at 10:15 p.m. was made by Rep. Svencer, seconded by Rep. Driscoll and so voted unanimously.*

*Attest:*

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk  
Clerk of the RTM*

*Sally A. Whitney, Assistant Town Clerk*